

Thursday August 15 1996

Table of exchange rates for various countries including Albania, Andorra, Argentina, etc.

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 46,632

Who is Dr Harash Narang?

Milking the mad cow crisis



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Lisa Jardine on today's Renaissance woman

The women who do it all

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OnLine

How to handle Martian mania

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Justice commission chief is elite mason

Link exposes review body to ridicule say angry campaigners

Duncan Campbell and Malcolm Glynn

THE Government's new body to investigate miscarriages of justice was thrown into crisis last night when it emerged that the chairman is a member of an elite branch of the Freemasons.



Remember that in your respective Lodges you have solemnly and voluntarily vowed to relieve and befriend with unhesitating cordiality every Brother who might need your assistance...



Sir Frederick Crawford... part-time chairman at £28,000 a year

John Wadham, director of Liberty, which campaigns on miscarriage of justice issues, said: "I am sure Sir Frederick will make an excellent chair."

public official as the best man for the job. A spokesman for the Freemasons Hall in London confirmed that Sir Frederick was chosen as chairman of the commission under the Nolan procedures...

4,000 French campsites 'pose serious safety risks'

Paul Webster in Paris

HUNDREDS of thousands of holiday-makers are at risk in French camping sites, according to the provisional findings of a government report which shows that at least 4,000 sites are potentially unsafe because of the threat of natural or man-made disasters.

de Calais, 216 are potentially unsafe or inadequately protected, while figures for the Var on the Mediterranean show only 18 out of 313 sites to be beyond risk.

Space probe pictures hint at water under frozen crust of Jupiter moon

Tim Radford Science Editor

FOR the second time in a week, NASA scientists have raised the tantalising possibility of extra-terrestrial life.

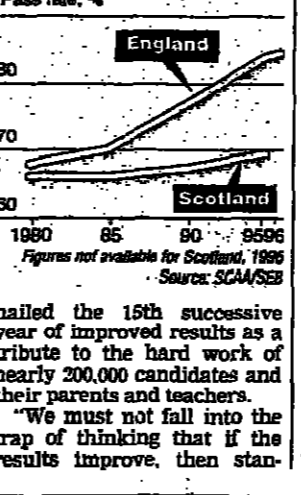
The latest discovery is based on photographs taken while Galileo flew 95,000 miles above the Jovian moon Europa, which is about the size of the Earth's moon and covered with smooth ice.

Scramble after A-level record

John Carvel Education Editor

UNIVERSITIES were last night sending out a bumper crop of confirmed offers of undergraduate places after record A-level results brought thousands more candidates up to the grades required for admission.

A level results



standards must be at risk," said Lord Henley, the education minister. Bryan Davies, Labour's higher education spokesman, said proper concern for standards should take nothing away from the achievements of students.

Inside

Britain The case of a man who bought a handgun by mail order and shot dead a woman has furthered calls for a total ban on privately owned arms.

World News

One Greek Cypriot was killed and two UN British soldiers wounded when trouble erupted again in the buffer zone which divides Cyprus.

Finance

Bankers and brokers with SBC Warburg and its parent Swiss Banking Corporation have shared in a near £60 million bonus bonanza.

Sport

Lindor Christie was edged into third place in the Zurich 100 metres by Dennis Mitchell and the Olympic champion Donovan Bailey.

THE LONDON INSTITUTE advertisement listing various colleges and famous ex-students like Brody, Conran, Fantoni, etc.

Sketch

Mash 'n' trash on San Diego menu



Peter Preston

EXPLANATORY note: a trash can, as I understand it, is a wastepaper bin, or one of those things under the sink that you put old kipper skins and yogurt pots in. The garbage goes into the rubbish bin outside your door. But a dumpster is a big, square, industrial plastic container which modern council lorries with heavy metal claws can pick up. Now come with me to the second full day of the Republican Party's national convention in San Diego. About 2,000 delegates are milling around, yacking, wearing silly clothes, sillier hats and — this year's fashion note — very expensive toupees. (One delegate in five is a millionaire. One delegate in 10 seems to have spent most of that on silver hairpieces.) Up on the podium, the governor of Illinois is lecturing about aid for small businesses. This stereotypically features walk-on parts for "Main Street Americans" — most via pre-shot video from GOP TV, but some in the flesh. Governor Edgar introduces a middle-aged lady called Barb (or possibly Barbie, a delegate from Minnesota has just popped his banner in my ear) Williams. She had, it appears, a dream: to start her own small-town restaurant. She realised her dream. But now mindless federal health bureaucrats and litigators are turning that dream to dust. She's being sued and pursued. "They say I can't put mashed potatoes in my dumpster". Some obscure Washington regulation, it seems, forbids the dumpstering of leftover, non-doggy-bag mash. You've heard of meat and potato issues. This would seem a potato one. But it is actually pretty meaty when stacked against the rest of the San Diego menu. Some marketing genius has invented a convention in the

image of breakfast television: short, snappy and moving-belt repetitive. Conferees confer only from 5pm to 8pm, when a worthwhile television audience exists. But switch on for 10 minutes and you will hear the essential message. Stay for another 10 and you'll hear it again. Family, contrary, hard work, spending your own money. No wonder the delegates pull their toupees over their ears. Consider Newt Gingrich, House speaker and abrasive right-wing visionary. Newt is probably the most loathed politician in America, but they can't hide him. So Newt comes unadorned, prefaced by a video of tall trees and bald eagles and black children working computers, with a booming rock soundtrack about Freedumb, as in Let Freedumb Live. The 2,000 yackers have been pre-issued with red, white and blue cards claiming "I Love Newt". They figure the Times Christi-style for the cameras. Newt introduces Ken, who won a gold medal in Atlanta for beach volleyball. Thirty years ago, he says solemnly, beach volleyball barely existed. Now ordinary people have turned it into a great game. No federal bureaucrat could have done that. Let Freedumb Live. Two per cent of delegates are black. Two Republican stars are ex-football quarterbacks. One may be vice-president. The other is a congressman called J. C. Locks. He never thought "the fifth of six children born to Helen and Boddy Watts in a poor black neighbourhood in the rural community of Buffalo, Oklahoma, would someday be called Congressman". But that is the American dream. Susan Molinari is a 30-something congresswoman from New York. In 1994, she says, Guyano and Marie Molinari, and their young son, left Italy in search of his dream: a barber shop on 104th Street, Queens, with the US flag hung outside. Now, only two generations on, his great-granddaughter speaks to us, with her own three-month baby Susan Ruby, in the gallery being fed for television by husband Bill Bottle milk, not solids. But I'm sure she'll love mashed potato when she grows up.

Some marketing genius has invented a convention in the

First night

Supply shifting through the ages

Michael Billington

AT LEAST it happened. Unlike the debacle surrounding Robert LePage's *Elsinore*, which has been cancelled, Robert Wilson's Orlando opened on schedule. And, although I found it coldly stylish, it certainly boasts a brilliant solo performance from the multi-faceted Miranda Richardson. Woolf's 1928 novel can be seen in many ways: as a prolonged love-letter to Vita Sackville-West, as a playlet on scholarly biography and as a serious statement on the provisional nature of sexual identity. Its aristocratic hero traverses four centuries and famously changes gender, moving from Elizabethan and Stuart aristocrat and courier to Turkish ambassador before becoming leech, beset by Victorian wife and finally 1920s writer. The novel has a free-wheeling exuberance and post-modernist pluralism as it plays with literary conventions. But, in this adaptation by Daryl Pinckney and Robert Wilson, it becomes a first-person narrative that records both a physical and spiritual journey: one that takes the protagonist from swashbuckling maleness to a fetishistic femininity before achieving fulfilling freedom as an almost asexual, solitary writer. The final words, "I am one", are delivered with a sense of relief. You don't get the circumstantial detail of the novel but

Wilson stages it with chaste refinement. The transitions in place and time are made largely through light, sound and costume. Richardson glides from one to another, reminding us of Woolf's point that sexual identity is often a matter of teasing disguise. Wilson's visual conception is immaculate but something of the novel's larkish delight in fantasy gets lost in the process. What holds the evening together is the marvellous performance of Richardson, following in the footsteps of Ute Lemper and Isabelle Huppert. In her first guise as rapier-wielding Elizabethan boy in bottle-green doublet and hose she exudes a mysterious androgynous sensuality. Her transformation into womanhood, in billowing Turkish harem-trousers, is accompanied by a sense of wonderment, later dwindling into a weariness with the restrictions imposed by confining Victorian undergarments. Only at the end, when she appears in a costume adorned with quills, does she achieve the intangible setpoint of the writer. It is, above all, a wonderful piece of physical acting. Richardson's supple body arches and bends like a bow, her hands sometimes quiver in the air and at others are extended horizontally like plates. It is as refined and disciplined as Noh theatre yet it suggests the multiple identities within one frame and the search for a rooted self. It is the performance that supplies the emotion in a formal, somewhat chillingly beautiful and austere production. This review appeared in later editions yesterday.

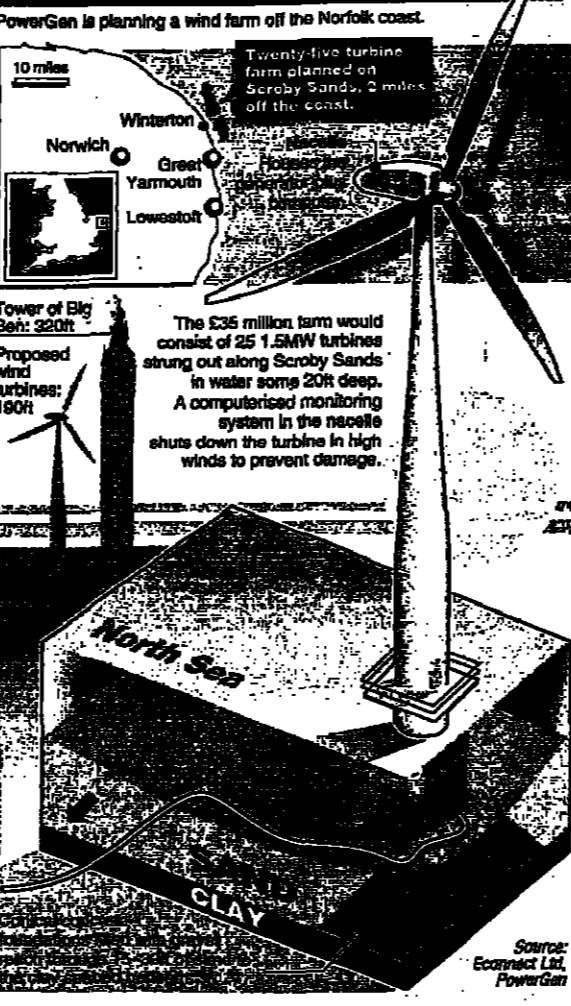
'SAS fantasist' says RUC threat made him recant

DAVID PALLISTER

FORMER soldier, dismissed as a fantasist by the Royal Ulster Constabulary, is now claiming that the RUC threatened him with murder charges unless he said his account of an SAS execution squad in Northern Ireland was untrue. In his book, *The Nemesis*

File, published last year under the pen name Paul Bruce, Paul Inman claimed he was part of an undercover hit-team which killed up to 40 IRA suspects and ordinary Roman Catholics between 1971 and 1972. No one in the province, including Sinn Féin, has given any credence to the claims. The RUC said it had investigated and found them to be a fiction.

Largest offshore wind farm



PowerGen is planning a wind farm off the Norfolk coast. The £36 million farm would consist of 25 1.5MW turbines strung out along Scroby Sands in water some 20ft deep. A computerised monitoring system in the nacelle shuts down the turbine in high winds to prevent damage.

Norfolk project would involve up to 25 giant turbines

Owen Bowcott finds a powerful answer blowing in the wind

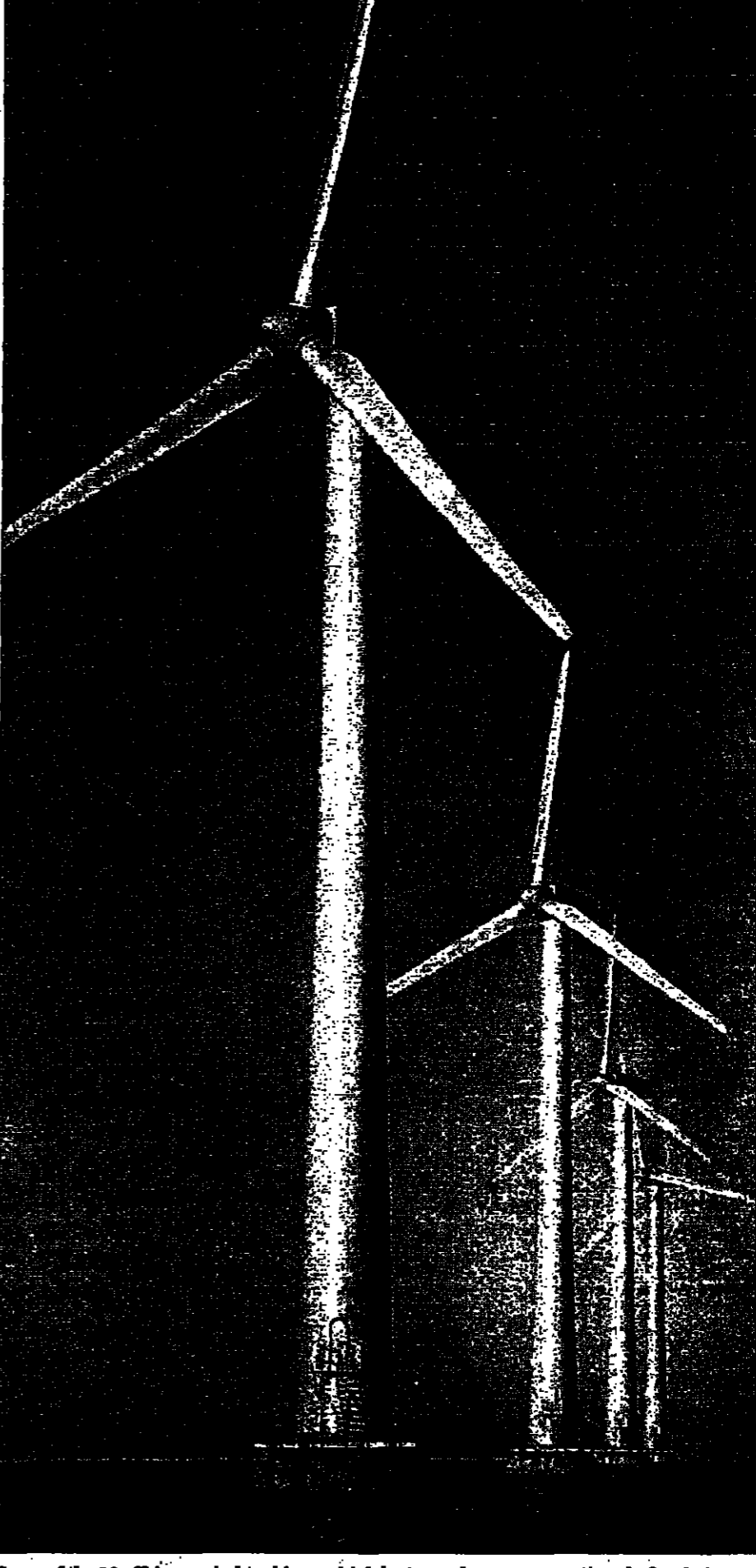
Largest offshore wind farm planned

BUILT on a shifting sandbank two miles beyond the Norfolk coast, the world's largest offshore wind farm could be generating electricity by 1998, the PowerGen claimed yesterday. Plans for the £36 million development near Great Yarmouth, which will involve up to 25 giant turbines — each 190 feet high and producing 1.5 megawatts of electricity — have already been submitted to the Department of Trade and Industry. If it is successful, other projects may be announced soon. Exploiting unobstructed windflows at sea, the PowerGen wind farm, based on prototypes already operating in Denmark, could revolutionise the capacity of the renewable energy industry. Ten turbines placed at sea are estimated to produce the same energy as 15 to 20 turbines on land. Despite research work on potential sites in the North Sea by the now defunct Central Electricity Generating Board as far back as the 1970s, wind generation of electricity offshore was not thought to be technologically feasible until recently. Rival commercial operators, such as National Wind Power, and the environmental group Friends of the

Pros and cons of windmill tilting

ADVANTAGES:
□ Non-polluting, no carbon or sulphur dioxide emissions.
□ Renewable: uses only the force of the wind.
□ Saves diminishing fossil fuel reserves.
□ Becoming cheaper as alternative technology advances.
DRAWBACKS:
□ Gas-fired power stations currently produce cheaper electricity.
□ Wind-generated power is not large enough to supply UK's total needs.
□ Wind farms take up land in the countryside.
□ Turbines have been criticised as eyesores and too noisy.
□ Potential navigational hazard at sea.

Earth, yesterday gave a qualified welcome to the news that PowerGen and its Danish partner, Vestas, are pursuing the scheme. The final go-ahead depends on the DTI granting a power supply contract under what is known as the Government's non-fossil fuels obligation. Ministers have set a target of generating 1,500 megawatts of capacity from renewable resources — including small hydro-electric plants — by 2000. The National Grid's total generating capacity is around 60,000 megawatts. The backlash against wind farms in the countryside has become more vocal amid claims that giant turbines are defacing the landscape and reviving propeller blades are too noisy. PowerGen is confident that the environmental impact of its scheme will not be damaging. "We have been very careful to site the turbines away from the areas on the sandbanks used by seals for feeding," explained Mike Pollock of PowerGen yesterday. "They will be well out to sea, so there should be little noise. We hope there will be other opportunities for more such projects in the future." Friends of the Earth's windpower campaigner, Anna Stanford, warned that sandbanks north of Scroby Sands, where PowerGen would base its scheme, had been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest. "But we are broadly in favour," she added. "There is an opportunity to increase the use of renewable sources and provide skilled jobs. It won't involve any loss of land for agriculture. The base of the 190ft turbines, standing in 20ft of



Some of the 10 offshore wind turbines which last year became operational after being installed by Vestas off the coast of the Jutland peninsula

water at high tide, will be anchored to the sea floor by concrete pilings. Two such farms are currently operating off Denmark, and one off the Dutch coast. Richard Silberman, of Vestas, which operates one of the Danish projects, said that the cables taking the electricity generated into the local supply grid would be tied to the sea floor. "We put a bird observation platform on one of the

turbines off Denmark to monitor the environmental impact," he said. "But the birds are sitting there quite happily, using it as a resting place." Wind generated electricity costs around 4.8 pence a kilowatt to produce; power derived from large gas-burning stations costs only 2.6 pence a unit. The price difference is subsidised by the Government's non-fossil fuel programme. Nuclear power, environ-

mental campaigners point out, is also heavily subsidised. Mike Dowling, Great Yarmouth's chief planning officer, said yesterday that he hoped to be consulted in future. "It is more than two miles offshore so it's not technically within our district. But you can see the Scroby Sands out to sea. They shift around a little and there are boat trips out to view the seals."

'Smoking laptop' enters Manhattan terror trial

Amorous talk on disc may nail a suspected bomber. Ian Katz in New York reports



Ramzi Ahmed Yousef, accused of airline bomb plot

PERHAPS he liked to listen to the sweet voice cooing "I don't forget that I love you" when he felt lonely. Perhaps he was simply intoxicated with his own technological prowess. Whatever prompted Ramzi Ahmed Yousef to record his amorous telephone conversation with an Asian woman and store it on his Toshiba computer, he surely regrets it now. The brief sound file is one of the most damning pieces of evidence found on the hard drive of the "smoking laptop" that lies at the centre of the extraordinary terror conspiracy trial unfolding quietly in a Manhattan courtroom. Prosecutors say the computer contains detailed plans for one of the most audacious and potentially deadly terrorist attacks ever conceived — a plan to blow up a dozen United States airliners travelling from Asia to the US. The FBI used Microsoft computer experts to recover deleted files containing flight schedules, projected detours, chemical formulas for the plot known as Project Bojingo. Prosecutors say the laptop belonged to — or at least was used by — Mr Yousef, an allegation supported by the romantic conversation in which his voice can be heard. If the government is to be believed, Mr Yousef is one of the most resourceful terrorists of modern times. The authorities believe he was behind the 1983 World

service agent testified that Mr Yousef had boasted to him about how he converted Casio watches into bomb timers. Mr Yousef and his alleged co-conspirators deny any involvement in the airline plot, insisting any confessions were obtained under duress. Mr Yousef, who is conducting his own defence, claims he was in detention in Pakistan at the time the plot was hatched. Though Judge Kevin Duffy warned that his decision to represent himself was "most likely...guaranteeing your own conviction", Mr Yousef has appeared poised, even jaunty, as a succession of witnesses have given apparently damning evidence. His English is good and his questioning intelligent. While few doubt that the man in Judge Duffy's courtroom is the master bomber the FBI hunted for two years, there are still doubts about his true identity. Even investigators acknowledge that Yousef is merely one of more than 40 aliases used by the alleged bomber. He had three passports on him when he was arrested in Pakistan. They concluded that he was Abdul Basit Karim, a Pakistan national born in Kuwait, who studied computer-aided electronic engineering at Swansea Institute before returning to work for Kuwait's planning ministry. He and his family disappeared during the Iraqi occupation. Mr Yousef used the name Abdul Basit Karim to obtain the temporary Pakistani travel documents with which he escaped New York after the World Trade Centre blast, and his fingerprints are understood to match those in the Kuwait interior ministry's file on Mr Abdul Basit.

Pictures hint at water under crust of Jupiter moon

continued from page 1

tists a step closer to determining whether Europa had environmental "niches" warm enough and wet enough to meet the requirements to host life, Mr Greenley said. Europa has been a candidate home for extra-terrestrial life — of a primitive kind — for decades. It has a tenuous atmosphere, with oxygen. Speculation began after NASA's Voyager probe in 1979 photographed strange stripes on the moon's surface. One theory is that the stripes are geological faults — in ice rather than rock — smeared by flooding caused by liquid water or warm ice mixed with mud that wells up through the cracks then freezes again. Below the ice, planetary scientists have thought, there just could be an ocean 30 miles deep. And water is now thought to be the most important ingredient in whatever "factory" life might be assembled from vital elements. The other major requirement is heat — and the gravitational force from Jupiter could generate heat in the rocky core below Europa's ocean. Galileo ended its 24 billion mile journey to Jupiter in December. It will now complete a series of 11 orbits around the giant planet. It will make closer passes over Europa in December and in February and November 1997. Daniel Goldin, NASA's administrator, said the pictures were "distant snapshots". "We'll shoot a whole photo album when Galileo takes its targeted pass at Europa in December. We're not going to jump the gun. These pictures do not prove the existence of liquid water on Europa. "The pictures are exciting and compelling, but not conclusive."

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| Aug 18th | London City Ballet Gala programme of Classical Ballet |
| Aug 17th | London City Ballet Gala programme of Classical Ballet |
| Aug 18th | Indo Jazz Fusions and Anita Carmichael |
| Aug 20th | Elaine Delmar "Thank you Mr Gerstwin" |
| Aug 21st | Camberwell Pocket Opera |
| Aug 21st | Gala Performance |
| Aug 24th | Kokuna Dance Company |
| Aug 24th | City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra |
| Aug 25th | Gandini Juggling Project |
| Aug 25th | Los Van Van |
| Aug 26th | Jaleco |

Case strengthens calls for firearms ban as campaigners point to 'terrifying weaknesses' of controls

Life for killer who got gun by mail order

Alex Bell

A MAN who bought a handgun by mail order was given four life sentences yesterday after he shot dead a woman and attempted to kill three other people, in a case which strengthened calls for a ban on privately-owned firearms.

Richard Humphrey got round gun legislation by obtaining someone else's licence through the classified section of Gun Mart magazine. He then sent it to a dealer who posted a .22 semi-automatic pistol and a .357 Magnum to his south London home.

Over a four-month period last year Humphrey, aged 22, patrolled London with his guns, inflicting terror indiscriminately. He murdered a mother of two as she returned home from church, fired at the head of a man on the London Underground, and mugged an RAF officer, shooting him in the chest and back.

The case, coming a day after the Conservative-led Commons home affairs select committee rejected a ban on private handgun ownership, provoked further outrage among anti-gun campaigners.

Fred Broughton, chairman of the Police Federation, said the case exposed the weakness of the system. "A wholesale prohibition of handguns is the correct solution, rather than tinkering with existing laws. Why should combat handguns be in private hands?"

Sir Lawrence Verney, the Recorder of London, appeared to side with the anti-gun lobby when he told Humphrey at the Old Bailey that it was "deplorable" that he had obtained the weapon.

"It is very much in the news today that this is something of great public concern. Those who have to make decisions will perhaps make note that it was a .22 which caused the damage in this case."

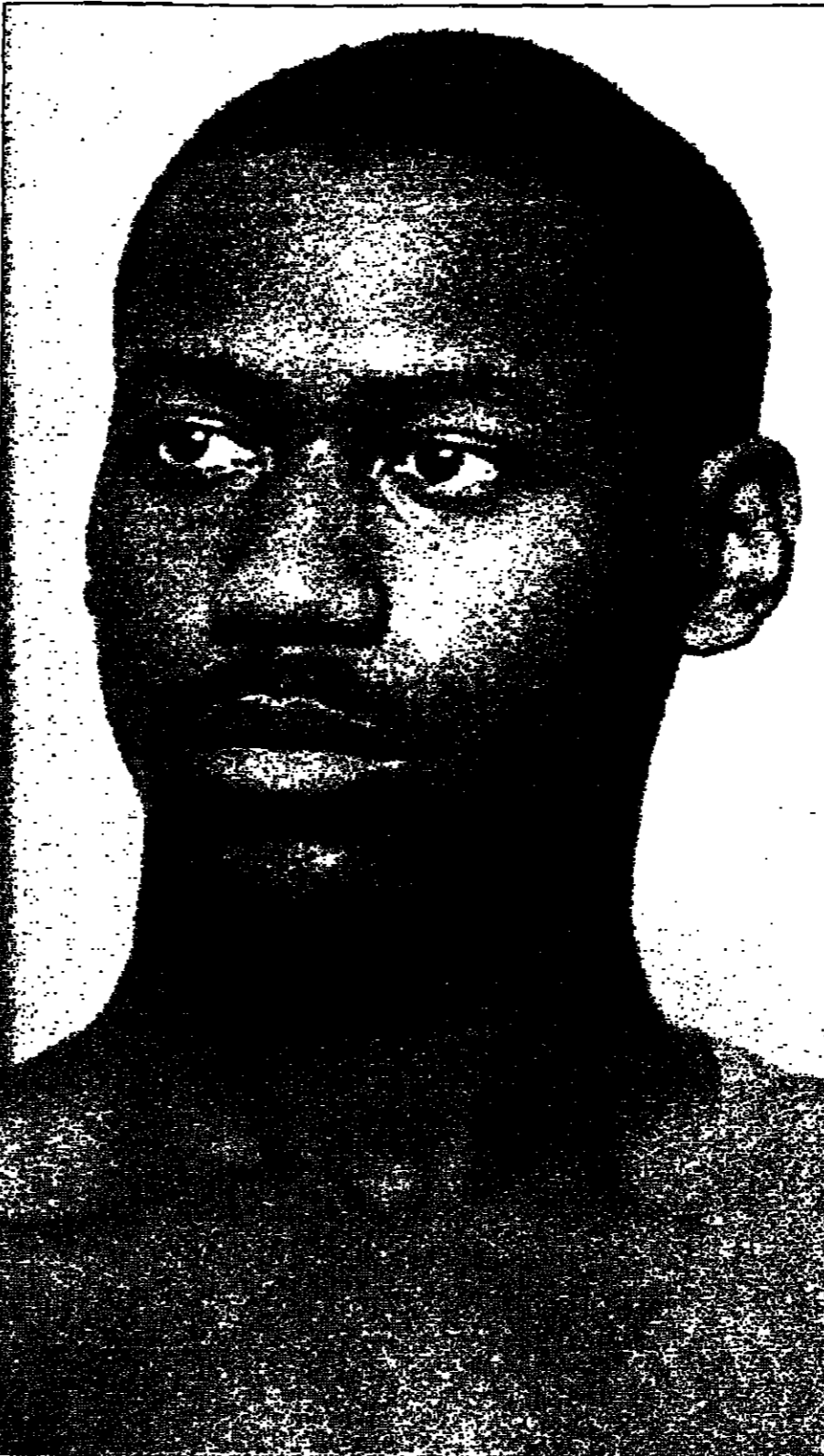
A controversial part of Tuesday's report dealt with weapons over .22 calibre.

Alan Beith, Liberal Democrat home affairs spokesman, said: "Supplying guns by mail

- Beretta Model 76 £180. .22 S & W Model 63 4" £230. .22 Colt Trooper 6" £235. .357 Mag S & W Model 13 4" £195. .357 Mag S & W Model 27.2 8 1/2" £245. .357 Mag S & W 27 nickel 3 1/2" £210. .44 Mag Astra Terminator 4" £195. .44 Mag S & W Model 29 4" nickel £255. Telephone: 0203 222 222



Richard Humphrey, right, who replied to an advert, top, in the October 1994 edition of Gun Mart to obtain a .22 pistol, similar to that pictured left, with which he shot Wing Commander Peter Drissell, above. Humphrey was jailed for life yesterday



order is one of the terrifying weaknesses of the current gun control system. The whole system needs a complete overhaul to prevent guns of any kind getting into the wrong hands."

Gun Mart refused to comment, but a former editor said Humphrey's actions should not be used to make a political point. "Our gun laws are as strict as anywhere in the world. Making it more illegal

does not stop people doing it."

Humphrey's method of obtaining the gun was to offer pistols to a man advertising in Gun Mart. He persuaded the buyer to send his gun licence for checking. Posing as the enthusiast, he got another advertiser to supply him with guns. Humphrey mailed the gun dealer the stolen certificate and £230 in postal orders. In return he was sent the firearms and ammunition. The dealer notified police. Humphrey was already under investigation as a result of earlier approaches to advertisers and police in Brixton, south London, went to his home. They were 20 minutes too late and found only an empty box.

The jury was told how Humphrey targeted his victims at close range. He killed Victoria Oduval, aged 36, in cold blood in Stockwell, south London. Accompanied by another man, he mugged Wing Commander Peter Drissell, who "miraculously survived" a hail of at least five bullets, four of which remain in his body. Had the 6ft 5in tall officer not been so fit he would probably have died, the court heard.

Humphrey also tried to kill passer-by Carol Bell, who witnessed the mugging. She escaped injury. The same

Jobless total tumbles to five-year low

Sarah Ryle

UNEMPLOYMENT fell last month to a five-year low, signalling strengthening economic growth and Conservative hopes in the run-up to the general election but sparking renewed attacks on the accuracy of the jobless count.

Official figures yesterday showed the number of people claiming unemployment benefit fell by 24,000 in July to 2,126,000, bringing the jobless rate to 7.6 per cent — the lowest level since March 1991.

The Government and City analysts welcomed the fall, the fifth monthly decrease in a row. They said it kept Britain's predicted economic recovery on course for the second half of this year.

The City said the bright jobs outlook supported the Bank of England's recent warning to the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, that a rise in interest rates was needed to guarantee his inflation target. But fears of overheating were dampened as earnings growth remained flat.

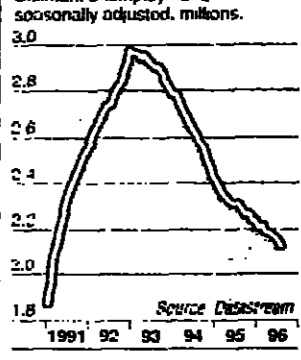
The latest figures show wage inflation in June was 3.75 per cent for the fifth month in a row. There was also evidence that the recovery was unevenly spread, as manufacturing unemployment rose in June.

Analysts said these factors meant the latest jobs news would not deter Mr Clarke from cutting base rates again to ensure people felt the effects of the economic upturn.

The education and employment minister, Eric Forth, said he would not read too much into one month's "exceptionally large fall". The Office for National Statistics, which compiled the figures, acknowledged that the wave of students leaving education for the labour market made the July figures hard to assess accurately. However, it estimated that the downward trend in unemployment would accelerate to an average monthly decrease of 15,000. The number of new vacancies at job centres rose, supporting the more buoyant prediction.

"Falling unemployment and the expectation of steady economic growth offer increasingly good job prospects for young people and unemployed adults," said Mr Forth, who highlighted the decrease in long-term unemployment. The number of people out of work for a year or more

Five-year low



The number of people out of work

dropped by 27,000 in the three months to July, the 10th consecutive quarterly fall.

The Government was immediately criticised for manipulating the jobs figures by Labour, which is due to unveil a dossier on Tory economic policy today.

The shadow employment minister, Stephen Byers, said unemployment among school-leavers aged 16 and 17 had risen by 30 per cent in three years according to the most recent Labour Force Survey, a broader survey of joblessness which is in line with other EU countries. The Government has refused to publish it on a monthly basis.

Mr Byers said job opportunities had dwindled, pointing out the number in work had fallen by 71,000 in the first three months of this year to 25,734,000. This level was, however, 15,000 higher than at the same time last year.

The unions were also sceptical about the true state of the labour market. The TUC general secretary, John Monks, said: "The fall in claimant unemployment is welcome, but it is not a reliable guide to what is really happening in the labour market... and while the social contract in Britain's workplaces continues to erode, there will be no reduction in job insecurity."

A rise in industrial action led to a sharp increase in the number of working days lost through disputes in June to 238,000, the biggest monthly figure since March 1990. Officials said the rise was mainly due to the postal strikes.

Chief quits in hospital flare-up

No confidence vote highlights 'absurd contradictions' of internal market

Chris Millill Medical Correspondent

THE chairman of a leading regional hospital resigned yesterday after senior doctors passed a vote of no confidence in him and threatened to quit their management duties.

The departure of Peter Allen, which erupted after Morriston hospital in Swansea lost a contract to care for elderly people and sacked 16 staff, including three consultants.

The neighbouring Singleton hospital, which won the contract, was then refused permission to hire the sacked staff. This meant that elderly people were facing the prospect of being looked after by junior doctors while senior doctors faced redundancy.

The British Medical Association said the situation reflected the "absurd contradictions" of the internal market

ket system, whereby local hospitals had to compete against each other rather than co-operating, and senior doctors were sacked while patients were forced to receive care from less qualified staff.

The row has split doctors and managers in Swansea, where Morriston and Singleton hospitals, serving 200,000 people, found themselves fighting for the same contracts to care for patients.

Earlier this year the West Glamorgan Health Authority switched a £1.6 million contract for the care of the elderly from the Morriston to the Singleton. The manager of the health authority, Tony Beddow, then moved to become chief executive of the Morriston.

The Morriston is facing a budget deficit in excess of £3 million — and Mr Beddow was forced to come to terms with the consequences of his own previous contract decision.

He decided to sack 16 staff, including three consultants involved in care of the elderly. Subsequently, doctors at the hospital passed a no confidence motion in Mr Beddow and Mr Allen.

The redundancies were later withdrawn, but 16 senior consultants who hold



Peter Allen... decision 'in patients' interest'

management positions yesterday preferred their resignations from management duties, although they will continue to treat patients, saying they could no longer work with the managers.

Within hours, Mr Allen had resigned, saying this was in the overall interest of the trust and patients.

Dr Bob Broughton, Welsh Secretary of the BMA, said the union was not calling for jobs for life for doctors if work disappeared, but senior

staff could not be sacked without due warning and consultation as had happened in at the Morriston.

Dr Broughton said: "What is happening at the Morriston is an example of the seriously destabilising effects of the internal market on how hospitals are run. Morriston faces an overspend of millions but this is by no means unique. The problems are coming to a head in Wales because trusts here are generally smaller, but the distortion of clinical priorities is happening everywhere."

Rhodri Morgan, Labour's health spokesman for Wales, said that the Welsh Secretary, William Hague, should "knock heads together" and that there was a clear case for merging the two Swansea hospitals so that they could work as one for the benefit of patients rather than competing against each other. "Mr Hague should cease his naive belief that competition between hospitals is healthy."

Welsh Office minister, Gwynlyn Jones, who accepted Mr Allen's resignation "with regret", said that the top priority was for a new chairman to be appointed as soon as possible to re-establish effective management at the trust.

Canine show world in a whirl over the tale of dizzy Chizzy

CRICKET had Botham versus Khan, football has Venables versus Sngar. Yesterday dog showing became the latest sport to see its biggest names clash far away from their usual venues, writes Nick Varley.

The case of the drugged chihuahua ended in tears, figuratively, for owner Carol Brampton, who was

found to have "behaved discreditably or prejudicially to the interests of the canine world".

But it was her rival, Tracy Dyke, who had been in tears literally as she told the disciplinary sub-committee of the Kennel Club of how her dog Chizzy — full name Deltramer Secret Showburst — keeled over at

a show in Lytham St Anne's, Lancashire, last October, and appeared to have died.

Mrs Dyke, aged 37, of Bromsgrove, Hereford and Worcester, and three witnesses told the hearing that they heard Mrs Brampton, aged 46, of Faversham, Kent, admit she had given Chizzy valium.

But she claimed that she was the victim of a vendetta because of her success over two decades of competition.

The sub-committee found against her and banned her from taking part in or attending Kennel Club events for five years. She was also ordered to pay costs of £209.

DAVE WAS OVER THE MOON ...

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Penn comes within one step of a masterpiece; then he throws it all away in a ending that starts by mixing nightmare and farce and then goes teeth-grindingly wrong.
The Crossing Guard reviewed

G2 page 8

Colleagues praising Christopher Gray, murdered in his churchyard, say he knew all the dangers of his ministry

Parents pay tribute to vicar as a 'loving son'

David Ward on city mourning its priest

THE parents of the murdered Liverpool vicar Christopher Gray yesterday paid tribute to their "loving son" who was stabbed to death in his churchyard.

His father, Philip, read a brief statement and answered questions at a press conference; his mother, Margaret, spoke only once, but her nine words about Father Gray stifled all further questions: "He was an extraordinary son and I adored him."

Having faced a host of reporters and film crews, the couple had then to formally

identify the body of their 32-year-old son.

As they did so, Merseyside police continued to question Peter Storey, whom they had named in connection with the killing. He was arrested with two others in a flat in St Helens early yesterday.

It emerged that Father Gray had been attacked while working in another Merseyside parish. In 1994 a man he had been counselling for drug problems broke into his home and held him captive. He was later convicted of burglary and false imprisonment.

Across the city, friends and



colleague paid tribute to an intensely loyal colleague who was committed to his work in the inner city.

At his church, St Margaret's in Anfield, parishioners and pupils from the primary school laid flowers on a grass bank. One card carried only a question mark; a message from Cathi read "Brilliant but no good at pub quizzes".

Mr Gray, like his wife a retired doctor, told reporters: "To the academic community Christopher was a scholar of high repute, with a first class honours degree from Oxford and two post-graduate



Children's tribute to Father Gray (top left) among the flowers laid at St Margaret's Church, Anfield. PHOTOGRAPH BY DON MCFEES

degrees, one in philosophy, one in theology. [But] he never lost his common touch with people from all walks of life — anyone could talk

to him as a friend. To the diocese, he was a rising star."

Mr Gray said his son had told them of his vocation after leaving Oxford, when he had

already accepted a job at the Foreign Office.

"Christopher had no ambitions in the Church. He was willing to go where he was

sent and to do what he was asked to do. I think he probably felt that the city had great deprivation and there were many needs, some of which he felt he could cater to.

"He was happy in Liverpool. The jobs he did were jobs that were not immediately attractive. There were risks to his property and his life. He cheerfully accepted those.

"We were constantly aware of his risks, but there was nothing we could do to lessen them. It is a measure of his character that he chose to shield us from full knowledge of the risks he was taking."

He had "no feelings whatsoever" toward his son's killer.

On Wednesdays Father Gray would join Janet Arnold, his colleague in the diocese's evangelical group, in morning prayer at St Margaret's. Yesterday Sister Arnold led the prayers.

"He was very practical; in-

tensely loyal, always encouraging," she said.

"We talked about his vulnerability as a priest living on his own with many people calling at the vicarage in various stages of need. We both believed it was part of his ministry to respond.

"He was never naive — he knew the dangers and he accepted them. He was streetwise enough to know what was going on, to know when he was being duped."

Canon Neville Black, for 32 years an inner-city priest in Liverpool, said of the dangers facing clergymen: "Most have regular callers looking for help. Some will be lovable rogues, satisfied with a cup of tea, bacon butty and perhaps a couple of quid. But now we are seeing younger people, the poor, drug users desperate to feed their habit."

He never lost his common touch with people from all walks of life — anyone could talk to him as a friend. To the diocese, he was a rising star' Philip Gray, father

He was an extraordinary son and I adored him' Margaret Gray, mother

He was never naive — he knew the dangers and he accepted them. He was streetwise enough to know what was going on, to know when he was being duped by someone' Janet Arnold, colleague

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Police struggle with violence

Peter Hetherington

JAMES Sharples, Chief Constable of Merseyside, admits his cut-throated force is struggling to contain violent crime in the county, which is running well ahead of the national average.

He wants the Home Office to adjust its funding formula, which will lead to almost 400 job losses over two years.

Mr Sharples said he was under "significant strain" in trying to cope. Violent crime in the county accounts for 8.5 per cent of all offences, and is rising, against a national level of 6 per cent. But Home Office funding is to be reduced by 10 per cent over the next two years.

Mr Sharples, chairman of the Association of Chief Police Officers, told the Guardian: "Violence and use of firearms has been going up, and the influence of the entrenched, organised gangs is rising. We're having to put more and more resources into that, having to deal with fairly serious firearms incidents, and gang warfare in Liverpool particularly."

He added that "dozens and dozens" of shooting incidents over the past 18 months had arisen from tension between organised criminal gangs.

Merseyside is at the same time having to reduce manpower by 10 per cent over two years under a Home Office formula, partly based on a

rapid population decline in the conurbation. That means 350 posts will go along with a further 40 civilian support staff, reducing manpower to 4,150.

Although the population is certain to fall further, Mr Sharples says the force's workload will inevitably rise.

"Merseyside has got a considerable degree of social problems — bad housing, single parent families, poverty and so on. That doesn't necessarily create more of a policing problem. But where there are areas of social strain, that is often where there is a greater demand for a policing service. Although the population is decreasing, the demand for policing is actually increasing."

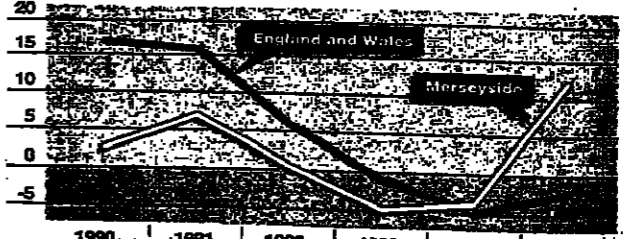
Targeting the seven main criminal gangs on Merseyside in a series of operations has meant diverting resources from other areas. Mr Sharples said the Home Office had to find a way of compensating forces like Merseyside during transition phases.

Part of the problem began in tit-for-tat shootings after the murder of drugs dealer David Ungi in Toxteth 15 months ago. That led to officers patrolling in reinforced armed response vehicles, openly displaying semi-automatic weapons.

Figures show crime in England and Wales dropped by 2.4 per cent over the last recorded year, but on Merseyside it rose by 12.1 per cent.

Bucking the trend

Total recorded crime, percentage change on previous year.



Source: Home Office, Merseyside Police

Attacks on clergy highlight Church's social dilemma

James Melville

THE murder of Christopher Gray and the serious wounding of another vicar follow mounting concern about violence towards the clergy.

The Rev Nduna Mpumzi, aged 50, vicar of the Church of St Mary's and All Saints in Walsall, West Midlands, suffered head injuries after an axe attack early on Tuesday last night after undergoing surgery. A Walsall man, aged 57, was charged last night with his attempted murder.

Annie Holden, spokeswoman for Lichfield diocese, in which Mr Mpumzi's church

is situated, said: "We are all concerned about security but we can't keep clergy behind locked doors. They are there to talk to the people."

A report published last May, Knocking on Heaven's Door, warned that clergy and their families were increasingly being threatened, abused and burgled.

John Hall, a north London vicar and chairman of the committee responsible for the report, said yesterday the Church was good at providing basic care for many in need. "What it perhaps has more difficulty with at local level is how to care for and deal with people who are violent, aggressive or have major problems such as mental illness."

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Unsolved murder haunts a small Cornish town

Investigation will reopen wounds, writes Geoffrey Gibbs

BAFFLEMENT, frustration and deep sadness hang over the small Cornish town of Launceston as local people await the arrival of French investigators hunting the killer of the schoolgirl Caroline Dickinson.

Caroline, a bright and popular 13-year-old, was raped and suffocated during a school trip to Brittany three weeks ago. Her body was found on a mattress in the dormitory she was sharing with four other girls at a youth hostel in the village of Pleine Fougères near St Malo.

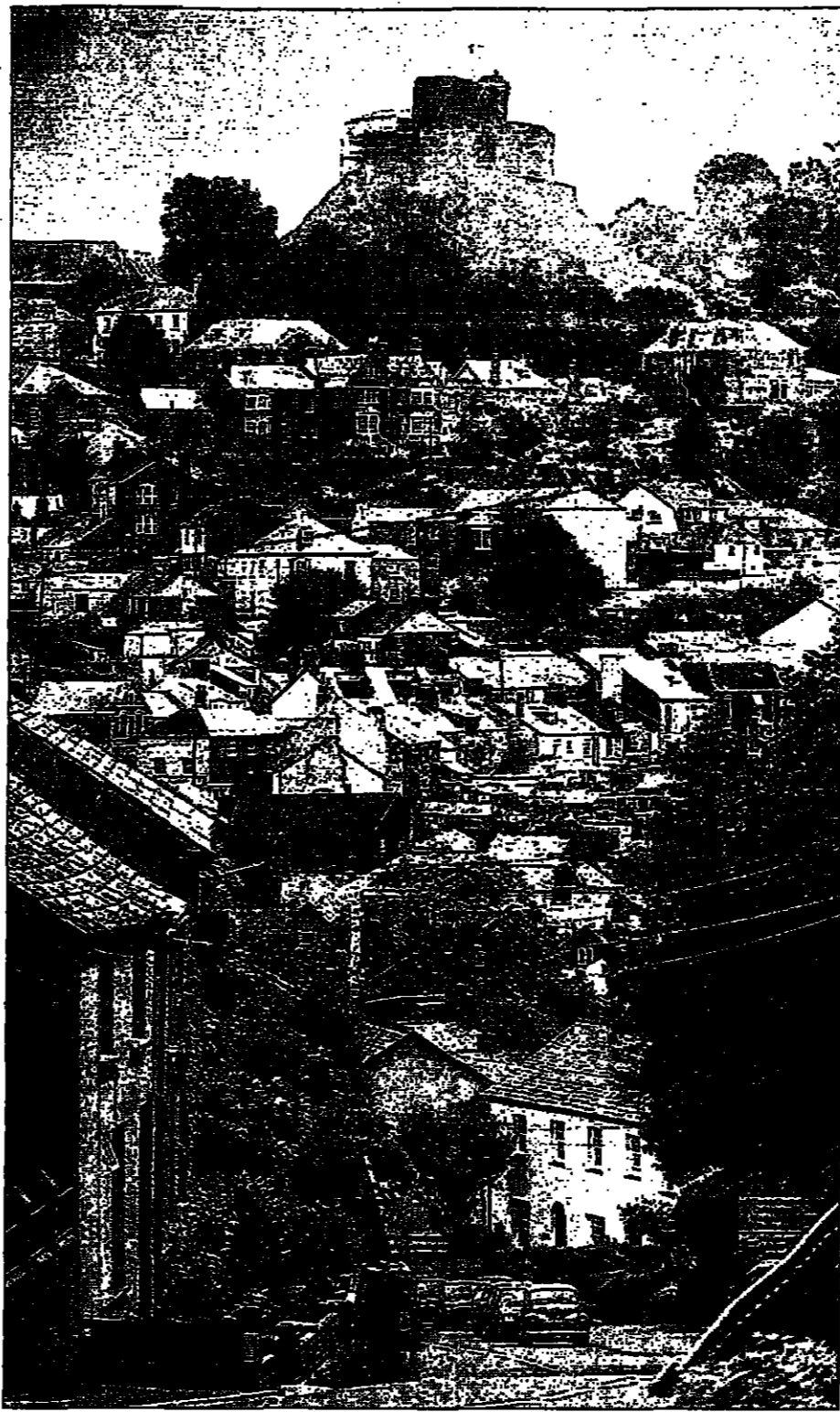
Staff and pupils have been receiving counselling since returning from the trip. It is feared that the presence of the French investigation team will reopen the wounds the community has been trying to heal, particularly as they are in the dark over plans to subject some of her classmates to DNA testing.

The mother of one of Caroline's close friends spoke yesterday of her concern at the likely impact of renewed questioning. Carole Mayne, an aerobics instructor, who works at the school, said: "Everybody wants the person who has done it to be caught. I don't think they should involve the children any more. They have had enough."

The investigation into Caroline's death was thrown into disarray last week when French police released Patrice Padé, a 39-year-old vagrant who had confessed to the crime. DNA tests showed he could not have committed the rape.

Gérard Zang, the examining magistrate in charge of the case, has applied formally to the French Ministry of Justice to come to Britain.

Although he is known to want DNA test five teenage boys who went to Pleine Fougères with the Launceston



Launceston is in shock from the killing of Caroline Dickinson, one of whose friends, Victoria Mayne, top left, with mother Carole, is 'in a hell of a state' PHOTOGRAPHS: TIM CLIFF

Police chiefs vote to cut drink limit

Vivok Chaudhary

THE Association of Chief Police Officers (Acpo) voted yesterday to support the lowering of the drink-drive limit, claiming it would lead to fewer deaths.

The decision by Acpo's traffic committee is expected to be ratified by the organisation's chief constables council in October. All 43 police forces in England and Wales were consulted before yesterday's unanimous decision.

Announcing support to lower the limit from 80mg per 100ml of blood to 50mg, David Williams, chairman of the traffic committee said: "Acpo has consistently advised drivers not to drink any alcohol before driving, and this is still the case."

"What we are saying now is that the evidence available supports the belief that the 50mg limit would save more lives and at the same time be acceptable to the public."

"Attitudes towards drinking and driving have hardened since the original limit was set largely thanks to public education and the success of government campaigns."

Mr Williams added that even if the Government did not lower the limit, the targeting of persistent drink-

drivers, and testing all drivers involved in accidents, would continue. Acpo was also looking to change the laws to give police more powers to target drink-drivers.

"Random breath tests have never been supported by the police but we need more powers than we have at the moment," said Mr Williams.

Acpo's stance is being backed by the British Medical Association and motoring organisations.

The transport minister, John Bowis, has already ruled out any change to the limit, claiming the current level is "fair and reasonable" and enjoyed wide public acceptance. He claimed that in countries where the limit is below 80mg, "there is no evidence they have a better record than we do."

A spokesman for the Department of Transport said yesterday that it would continually keep the drink-drive limit under review but there were no plans to change it, despite Acpo's decision.

He added: "We think that we are at a sensible limit and have no immediate plans to change it. The number of drink-related deaths has fallen from 1,800 in 1970 to around 800 today. There's a fair degree of public understanding of the current limit and there is no reason to change it."

Convicted driver urges zero alcohol level to deter risk takers

DAVID Johnson knew he was over the limit after supping three pints in his local pub, but home was only two miles away and the worst that could have happened, he says, was that he might have been breathalysed, writes Vivok Chaudhary.

Said Mr Johnson (not his real name): "I never thought I was not fit to drive." As he left the pub for his Cleveland home three years ago, he approached a Pelican crossing. "It was green and the next thing I knew, the windscreen had shattered. When I recovered from the shock I was told I had killed three women. I went from a normal life into a nightmare within seconds."

Mr Johnson, a research scientist, was found to be nearly twice above the legal limit and was convicted of careless driving and sentenced to three years imprisonment. He

was released on parole after 18 months. When he left prison he received death threats and was told by police to leave his home for his own safety. He now lives 70 miles from his family and fears neighbours might find out about his drink-driving conviction. "I certainly contemplated suicide," Mr Johnson said on BBC Radio 4's Today programme yesterday. "That I'd made children orphans, I will regret it for the rest of my life."

Mr Johnson still enjoys a drink in his local pub but claims despite the law and yesterday's decision by Acpo, drink-driving is still endemic and partially accepted in society. "They should put the limit at nought. Anything else gives people the idea they can drink and get away with it, which my case proves, you can't."

Critic of Hume's links with Sinn Fein president threatens to resign over series of attacks

David Sharrock
Ireland Correspondent

THE Social Democratic and Labour Party's internal divisions became apparent yesterday when a West Belfast councillor launched a stinging attack on party leader John Hume.

Hugh Lewsley, who repre-

sents the staunchly republican Twinbrook estate, was speaking after his house was attacked early yesterday. On Tuesday evening he spoke out against punishment beatings in a Channel 4 documentary.

Mr Lewsley has been a constant critic of the rough justice meted out by the IRA in his area. Last July he was savagely beaten and claimed

to recognise a number of republicans among the gang. But Sinn Fein denied republican involvement and Mr Lewsley, according to Mr Lewsley, accepted their denials.

Yesterday's attack, however, seems to have been the last straw for Mr Lewsley who sits in a camp within the SDLP which is critical of Mr Hume's close contact with the

Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams. "I am seriously calling upon my leader to engage in a process with Gerry Adams to stop republican attacks on me. If I don't get support from the leadership of my party and they don't condemn this situation strongly enough then I will resign my seat as an SDLP councillor."

Mr Hume's office said he was on holiday and unavailable for comment, but his aide Mark Durkan said: "I can understand Hugh's sense of hurt and frustration but it is completely misplaced to try to direct it at John Hume."

Mr Lewsley's outburst comes at a critical moment for the SDLP which is still reeling from the electoral in-

roads made by Sinn Fein in its traditional vote at the May 30 elections. Some SDLP members believe Mr Hume's strategy of bringing Sinn Fein in from the cold has not brought a permanent peace any nearer and has only strengthened the extreme wing of nationalism, thus weakening their own position.

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Peace pact falters in Chechenia

James Meek in Moscow

A CEASEFIRE in the Chechen capital Grozny seemed likely to collapse last night, despite an apparent fall-off in fighting, after Russia's top military commander in the region accused rebel snipers of shooting eight of his men through the head and vowed to clear them from the city.

Lieutenant-General Konstantin Pulikovskiy told Interfax news agency that his envoy had passed on to rebels his "protest and indignation at their actions".

"I do not intend to make any further agreements with the rebel fighters," he said. He was absolving himself of any responsibility for further escalation of the conflict and the operation to "destroy" the rebels in Grozny would continue.

Earlier — after denying rebel reports of a truce — he admitted that he had agreed informally with the rebel military leader Aslan Maskhadov that Russian troops would not open fire unless provoked.

Separatist sources reported only sporadic shooting on the outskirts of the capital yesterday.

But rebel commanders say they have no intention of leaving the city, much of which they control after nine days of fighting.

It was always unlikely that Moscow would agree to talks with the separatists until their fighters left or were forced out of Grozny.

The rebels accused Russian helicopters of unleashing rockets on refugees leaving Grozny after the rebel military began at midday yesterday. One report said 10 refugees were killed. The rebels also

reported a Russian air attack in southern Chechenia at 7.30pm yesterday.

The Moscow-backed Chechen civilian administration said that on Tuesday a Russian aircraft fired on a truck transporting refugees 30 miles east of Grozny, killing 29 people. Another air attack on an funeral had killed six, the rebels said.

A Russian government aid agency said 15,000 refugees had already fled Grozny. Eyewitness reports suggest that refugees and armed rebels often use the same routes and Russian soldiers have repeatedly shown that — given a choice between causing civilian deaths and letting suspected rebels escape — they will shoot, even in heavily built-up areas.

The rebel side said Gen Pulikovskiy's initial denial that he had reached an agreement with Gen Maskhadov showed that a pro-war faction in Moscow had been alarmed by the prospect of peace raised by the recent visit to the republic of the Russian national security adviser, Alexander Lebed.

"Alexander Lebed's peace initiative has panicked those forces in Moscow which stand behind this dirty war, who are afraid of taking responsibility for these bloody crimes they have committed in Chechenia," Gen Maskhadov said.

Last night the commercial Russian television channel NTV reported that President Boris Yeltsin had signed a new decree setting out new measures to end the Chechen conflict. It was not immediately clear whether this was the decree which Gen Lebed had recent visit to the republic of the Russian national security adviser, Alexander Lebed.

The clashes occurred less than an hour after the funeral of Tassos Isaac, a Greek Cypriot aged 24, who was beaten to death during a demonstration on Sunday.

Hundreds of young mourners marched to the UN's buffer zone at Dherynia. The Greek Cypriot police and military forces failed to hold back the demonstrators and large numbers headed to the no man's land, from where the Turkish troops and Turkish Cypriot police could be seen.

The unarmed UN peacekeepers in their blue helmets had formed a human chain and seemed to be controlling the situation.

Suddenly Solomos Spyrou, a bearded man dressed in black, ran to the Turkish lines. A UN soldier chased and grabbed him, but he broke free and began climbing a Turkish flagpole.

From behind the Turkish lines shots rang out and he fell dead, a cigarette still in the corner of his mouth. Then more shots came from the same area and there was panic.

The British soldiers took cover as the demonstrators fled. There was a shout from one soldier for an ambulance, but even as it arrived, some Greek Cypriots returned to try to reach the Turkish line. They had to be restrained by the UN soldiers.

One demonstrator was seen threatening a soldier with a large wooden club. The shooting convinced most of the demonstrators to keep their distance and move back behind their own police barriers.

Within hours, the UN had protested to the Turkish forces in the north against what it described as a "completely unwarranted reaction".

The dead man, aged 26, was a refugee from Turkish-occupied Famagusta. He had been living in Paralimni and knew Isaac.



Unknown soldiers... A Chechen fighter walks past Russian soldiers killed in street fights in Grozny this week. A ceasefire appeared to be faltering yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: ROBERT IONAS

Greek Cypriot killed as violence erupts in buffer zone

Chris Drake in Nicosia

A GREEK Cypriot was killed and two unarmed British soldiers serving with the UN peacekeeping force were wounded yesterday in clashes which erupted after the killing of another Greek Cypriot in the buffer zone between the island's Greek and Turkish communities.

The soldiers, members of 39 Regiment, Royal Artillery, had been sent to the south-east of the island as reinforcements to the Austrian contingent. They were not seriously hurt.

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The presidents of Croatia and Bosnia agreed in Geneva yesterday on a series of measures to dissolve Hercegovina, the Bosnian Croat mini-state within Bosnia.

A joint statement issued after a day of US-hosted talks said that from August 31 administrative areas under Bosnian Croat control would "cease to exist". — Reuters.

Thousands of dead rats have been found floating in a river in the north-east Indian state of Assam, frightening people from fishing and drawing water, officials said yesterday. — Reuters.

Romania and Hungary announced in Bucharest yesterday that they have reached agreement on the final text of a basic treaty, meant to bring to an end decades of verbal conflict between them, writes Nick Thorpe in Budapest.

A Saudi opposition group claimed yesterday that six Muslim militants had been arrested and had confessed to the lorry bombing in June which killed 19 US airmen in eastern Saudi Arabia. Neither Saudi nor US officials have announced any arrests. — AP.

Berlin policeman shot himself in the backside yesterday when a spent cartridge ejected from a fellow officer's pistol hit him on the neck during firing practice.

Shocked by the unexpected pain, the officer reached back with his pistol in his hand to remove the hot cartridge and a shot was fired, the police said. — Reuters.

Prosecutors in Hamburg demanded the maximum five-year jail sentence yesterday for the US neo-Nazi leader

Gary Lauck, accused of swamping Germany with extremist rightwing propaganda over 20 years. — Reuters.

Nearly 2,000 foreigners were trapped in Mongolia after officials sealed off parts of the north following an outbreak of cholera that has left six people dead and infected at least 54, officials said yesterday. — Reuters.

Two editors of the opposition weekly magazine The News Bayo Onanuga and Babafemi Ojodu, have been arrested by the Nigerian security authorities, a human rights group said. The magazine said that the oil minister, Dan Etete, was untouchable because of his closeness to the military ruler, General Sani Abacha. — Reuters.

The first three women to accept 2 million yen (210,000) compensation each from Japanese private fund for being forced into sexual slavery in the second world war received letters of apology yesterday from Japan's prime minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto. — AP.

Algerian security agents have killed six Islamic militants who may have been involved in the killing of a Roman Catholic bishop earlier this month, the newspaper El Watan reported. Police killed five militants in a raid on an abandoned residence near the outskirts of Oran, 220 miles west of Algiers, and a sixth in central Oran. — AP.

A booby-trapped parcel exploded yesterday in front of the law courts building in central Ajaccio, Corsica, causing significant damage but no injuries, police said. The building is a frequent target of bombing attacks by Corsican separatists seeking greater autonomy. — Reuters.

Gaullists try to keep corruption a closed book

But a determined French author has discovered that foul play is rife at the highest level, writes Paul Webster

THE few examining magistrates and investigative journalists who reveal high-level corruption in France face an uphill battle against a Gaullist administration determined to protect politicians and businessmen.

Le Caudat Enchaîné, the country's leading anti-corruption campaigner, described Jacques Chirac's lack of hypocrisy as almost praiseworthy after Gaullist officials were appointed to the top public prosecution offices where they have shelved scandals with the wave of the hand.

But this has added to the credibility of a surprise best-selling book which highlights top-level complicity about institutionalised fraud.

Pendant les Affaires, les Affaires Continuent (business as usual despite the scandals), by the former investigative reporter Denis Robert, aged 38, names names well-placed in why so few people involved in the widespread corruption of French officialdom and business are called to account.

"One of my informers told me that 89 per cent of national and local government contracts... depend on commissions or backhanders. But of the dozens of businessmen accused of corruption, none has been sentenced," he said.

"Despite Mr Chirac's campaign promise to ensure an independent judicial system, this is impossible when public prosecutors act as political commissars."

Some internationally known firms, including Bouygues, Lyonnaise des Eaux, Dassault, Elf-Aquitaine, Alcatel and, above all, Crédit Lyonnais, are among scores of companies under investigation in connection with possible illegal party funding or the personal enrichment of ministers.

But legal action depends almost entirely on a few courageous examining magistrates acting independently.

"At least half the cases are the result of contacts by journalists who have received information from well-placed sources but who need official support to avoid a libel case," said Mr Robert.

A promise by Mr Chirac to tighten up defamation laws by reinforcing the secrecy of examining magistrates' inquiries could effectively bar the reporting of political fraud unless a government court case was authorised.

Even after convictions, the protection of politicians reflects official indulgence. Bernard Tapie, the former owner of Marseille football club, is still an MP and MEP despite many court appearances concerning fraud. A Gaullist former minister, Alain Carignon, remains chairman of the Rhône-Alpes government while in jail awaiting the result of an appeal against fraud charges.

The book has shed light largely due to public frustration at the limited exposure of corruption by the media.

"My book was commissioned by Flon but they dropped out at the last minute because of links with companies named as accomplices, and lucrative book contracts with politicians suspected of corruption," Mr Robert said.

"Luckily, Stock took over, but the book has been ignored by the country's leading newspaper, notably Le Figaro."

He resigned from the newspaper Liberation when it was sold to a conglomerate owned by the Seydoux family, who helped finance former president Francois Mitterrand's election campaign.

He believes journalists have come to terms with institutionalised fraud which, according to one of his best-placed informers, involves a highly organised flow of kick-back cash being ferried to fiscal havens in Switzerland and the British Isles.

Even the odd supposed Mr Clean is sullied in the book. Henri Emmanuelli, the former Socialist Party leader who arranged Mr Mitterrand's election fund, just failed to become the left's presidential candidate last year. Had he won, he would now be under pressure to say why he concealed the purchase of a villa in Spain.

But under the present judicial system, a prosecution would be just as unlikely as in the case of dubious property deals affecting Mr Chirac, his prime minister, Alain Juppé, and many of their friends.

The report also called on the United States and Russia to take their nuclear forces off a state of alert.

The 17 scientists, statesmen and former cold war warriors urged the five declared nuclear countries — Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States — to commit themselves unequivocally to complete nuclear disarmament by 1997.

The commission, which was set up by the Labour government before its defeat in March, included the former US defence secretary Robert McNamara and the former

India scuppers test ban treaty

Stephen Young

AS EXPECTED, India yesterday blocked the long-delayed global nuclear test ban treaty.

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While

Since the coup, thousands of civilians have died Hutus slaughtered in military assault

Chris McGreal in Bujumbura

BURUNDI'S overwhelmingly Tutsi army has killed several thousand civilians since the military coup three weeks ago. Its offensive against Hutus has concentrated on a swath of territory across the centre of the country, as well as land bordering rebel camps in Zaïre.

Survivors accuse the army of using mortars and heavy weapons in attacks on groups of unarmed women, children and men, with no insurgents in sight.

A foreign official who works closely with Burundi's army said he had no doubt that when Major Pierre Buyoya seized power late last month the military took it as a signal for a new assault on Hutu rebels and civilians alike.

"It's clear this is more than the retaliation against civilians we had before. The army has taken on thousands of recruits and there's an operation in blocks of the country to clear people out," he said.

"They are just going from hill to hill killing people. The army says it is killing rebels, but the problem is soldiers see Hutu civilians and rebels

as one and the same, and that's how they treat them."

The continuing bloodshed will do little to help Maj Buyoya win over neighbouring governments, despite his announcement that he will soon appoint a new civilian parliament and that within three years he will bring in some kind of democratic rule.

Burundi has won just one concession from countries imposing the regional blockade which has shut off international flights and closed land borders: United Nations aid convoys arrived from Tanzania yesterday, the first since sanctions were imposed.

In a sign of increasing militarisation, Maj Buyoya has replaced four civilian regional governors with army officers.

Among those removed from office is the governor of Gitega province, where much of the killing is taking place. Tharcisse Ntibarirarana, a Hutu, had publicly condemned a massacre of Hutu students by their Tutsi classmates while the army stood by.

The military has been tied to other massacres in the province. Survivors of assaults in Gitega commune, in eastern Gitega, say an army attack launched two days after the coup is continuing. Victims accuse the military of

shelling people who have fled their villages and sought shelter on hillsides.

Although independent verification of death tolls is almost impossible, foreign human rights workers say they believe the violence in Gitega province alone has claimed more than a thousand lives. Last night hill-sides in Gitega, set alight by the army, were still burning amid reports of more killings.

Some survivors say they believe the army is attempting to carve out safe areas for Tutsi peasants by clearing Hutus from their land.

The head of military intelligence, Colonel Jean-Bosco Baradangwe, denied that a coordinated offensive had been launched but did admit civilians were dying.

"The army's sometimes undisciplined. There are deplorable situations at times. But we formed a commission to find out what was going on and there's two officers in prison for that now," he said.

"The acts of indiscipline are just isolated incidents, so people don't have to be afraid of the army as a whole."

"With the arrival of Buyoya, who knows the army well, there will be more discipline. The tension between the army and the people is dissipating quickly. We see it everywhere."



Anwar Hussain, aged 10, the sole earner in his family after his father's death from food poisoning, learns his father's trade from a friend in Bhiwandi, north of Bombay, yesterday. Police said the owner of the canteen where the poisoning occurred had refused to raise food prices in line with other eateries

REPUBLICAN CONVENTION: Delegates pray their man can deliver speech of his life

Dole woos soldiers and odd bedfellows

The nominee's selection must now be justified, writes Martin Walker

THE generally morose and taciturn Bob Dole must lift his party and stamp his candidacy upon a distracted country with the speech of his life as he formally accepts the Republican presidential nomination tonight.

The modest bounce the Republicans have seen so far in the opinion polls has been due to the choice of Jack Kemp as vice-presidential candidate and the parading of its illustrious new recruit, retired general Colin Powell.

Now the party returns to the reality of an uphill campaign led by Mr Dole.

His message of tax cuts, patriotism and moral character was trailed yesterday as he spoke to a delegation of Vietnam veterans, flanked by banners with his campaign slogan "A better man for a better America".

"We have to get this

country moving again, get it growing again, get the taxes down and lift our families up," he said as his wife, Elizabeth, prepared her own address, billed as the highlight of last night's session.

Having stressed the contrast between the war veteran Mr Dole and the draft-dodging President Clinton, the Republicans now want to contrast Mrs Dole, a veteran of the Reagan and Bush cabinets, with Hillary Clinton.

The main business of the convention yesterday was the formal speeches of nomination for the unopposed Mr Dole. Again it reflected the patriotic theme, with the top slot going to a Vietnam war hero and former prisoner-of-war, Senator John McCain of Arizona.

With the latest polls showing Mr Clinton leading by between 13 and 19 points, Mr Dole has to justify his candidacy. The Republicans are becoming hopeful that with Mr Kemp, Gen Powell and tax cuts in their armoury they may yet maintain control of the House of Representatives and Senate.

Expectations for the Dole speech have been raised but he is no orator and may well

be overshadowed by the verbal pyrotechnics of Mr Kemp. Indeed, chants of "Kemp-Dole" have already been heard in the convention hall.

Although the ideological fissures remain, the Republicans are united in their loathing of Mr Clinton, and they thrilled to the ferocious attacks unleashed upon him this week.

"America, it is time to wake up to President Clinton and his high-taxing, free-spending, promise-breaking, social security-taxing, health care-socialising, drug-coddling, power-grabbing, business-busting, lawsuit-loving, UN-following, FBI-abusing, \$200-haircutting, gas-taxing, over-regulating, bureaucracy-trusting, class-baiting, privacy-violating, values-crushing, truth-dodging, Medicare-forsaking, property rights-taking, job-destroying friends."

"And that's just in the White House," concluded the Texas senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, in the best-received Clinton-bashing speech of a day.

The keynote speech of the New York congresswoman Susan Molinari was memorable more for the appearance of her baby daughter than for the wear, rhetoric of the American Dream.

"America knows that Bill Clinton's promises have the life-span of a Big Mac on Air Force One," was her best line in an effort which did not stir the hall much but locked in, pervasive on the television screen, the main concern of the convention planners.

One of a parade of women and black and Hispanic delegates designed to make the party appear more diverse, Ms Molinari was interrupted by a brief flurry of catcalls from anti-abortion delegates, even though she did not mention her pro-choice beliefs.

The speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich, also had a prop. A golden retriever joined him for a speech which was greeted by a carefully rehearsed "spontaneous" demonstration for which "We Love Newt" posters had been distributed around the hall.

He is seeking to soften his image, and also wheeled out America's Olympic gold medalist in beach volleyball. "No bureaucrat could have invented this sport," Mr Gingrich proclaimed.

In fact, at the Los Angeles Times was quick to point out, California's beach volleyball courts were built by the state and county recreation departments.



Susan Molinari: speech upstaged by her baby

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The tent is not big enough for camp followers, writes Jonathan Freedland

IT CERTAINLY looks like a big tent. But it's not big enough for the 10,000 members of the Republican Party's milkiest group: the Log Cabin association of lesbian and gays.

They have been holding their own convention in San Diego, a gesture of protest at the party's failure to provide a sufficiently "big tent" to accommodate everyone. The phrase appears in their speeches and on lapel stickers, a two-word plea for acceptance.

"You don't have to embrace us — we're not touchy-feely Democrats — just don't bash us," says the group's spokesman, David Greer.

It's a tall order in a party which includes America's loudest anti-gay campaigners and whose new manifesto demands a ban on gay marriages.

The Log Cabin Republicans pay tribute to the humble origins of the party's founder, Abraham Lincoln. His battle was against slavery, not for basic human rights, Republican homosexuals say they are locked in a struggle for nothing less.

The Log Cabiners say they are Republicans for the same reasons as anyone else: they believe in lower taxes and a smaller government. Many earn above-average incomes and run their own businesses. Just because they have a different stance on sexuality rights, not the group's refusal to back George Bush in 1992. "But how can we endorse a guy who has capitulated time after time to the extreme right?"

for gays. "The roots of our party are that people have inalienable rights," says a Californian activist, Borden Moller. Republicans, he says, aim to keep government out of people's wallets and their bedrooms, whether they're gay or straight.

Many in the Log Cabin look to the libertarian Barry Goldwater, the Republican nominee of 1964. Now in his eighties, Mr Goldwater is an outspoken supporter of gay rights and was one of the few Republicans to back President Clinton's 1993 effort to lift the ban on gays in the military.

The president eventually buckled under a campaign led — as gay Republicans are quick to point out — by Democrats in Congress, not Republicans.

American homosexuals, who had voted overwhelmingly for Mr Clinton in 1992, became disenchanted. Two years later, up to a third of gays were voting Republican.

Now that trend could be reversed once again. It was a Republican effort that led to this year's Defence of Marriage Act, banning same-sex unions. "That was an anti-gay vote, inspired by an animus of hatred," says Mr Greer.

Members of the Log Cabin refused at first to endorse Bob Dole. They said they would only back him if he explicitly asked for their support; if he didn't, they would consider themselves snubbed. Mr Dole has met them half way, letting them know he would "welcome" an endorsement if one were offered.

David Greer explains the dilemma. "Our credibility as Republicans is jeopardised if we don't endorse for a second time," he says, referring to the group's refusal to back George Bush in 1992. "But how can we endorse a guy who has capitulated time after time to the extreme right?"

News in brief

Nigeria opens door to Commonwealth

COMMONWEALTH countries are consulting on a Nigerian offer to receive a group of foreign ministers to discuss conditions for the restoration of the country's Commonwealth membership. This was suspended last year after the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and other activists in the Ogoni region.

Nigeria has been told that the timing — the end of this month — is acceptable. But the Nigerians, according to press reports in Lagos, have suggested formal talks in the capital with General Sani Abacha, the country's military ruler, and ministers, which would not meet the conditions laid down by the Commonwealth.

The foreign ministers are believed to have asked previously to be allowed to see prominent detainees such as Mushooh Abiola, the presumed winner of a 1993 presidential election annulled by the military, and General Olusegun Obasanjo, imprisoned for alleged coup plotting. — *Foreign staff*

US troops let Mladic go

UNITED STATES troops ducked an apparent opportunity to confront General Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb military commander wanted for war crimes, it emerged yesterday.

Nato said that on Saturday when a team of US weapons inspectors arrived in Han Pijesak, Gen Mladic's headquarters, and demanded to inspect an arms dump, they were told Gen Mladic was present and would escort them around the site.

The Nato-led peace implementation force (I-For) is mandated to arrest suspected war criminals if encountered in the course of normal duties. Major-General John Sylvester said yesterday that the team decided that it was "not prudent" to confront the general as the patrol was only seven strong. — *Julian Borger, Zagreb*

Internet 'police' launched

SINGAPORE hopes to block pornography and other banned material from the Internet next month by launching a system to police cyberspace.

The "proxy server" is the first censorship weapon unveiled by the government since it announced last month that Internet users were banned from criticising the government, showing pornography and discussing race and religion.

From September 15, Internet providers must channel the country's 120,000 subscribers through the servers, preventing them from seeing about a dozen sites, said Ahmad Suhaimi, a spokesman for the Singapore Broadcasting Authority. — *AP, Singapore*

Massacre at Sunni rally



FAMILIES are brought into a Karachi mortuary to identify the victims of gunmen who killed 12 people and wounded 11 in an attack yesterday on a militant Sunni Muslim procession celebrating Pakistan's independence day.

Bullets were sprayed at a cavalcade of vehicles taking supporters of the Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP) group to the rally in eastern Karachi.

The chief minister of Sindh province, Abdullah Shah, said the attack was "organised by a religious group", which he declined to name.

The SSP has long had a feud with Pakistan's Shi'ite Muslim minority, especially the militant Sipah-e-Muhammad Pakistan group. — *Reuters, Karachi*

PHOTOGRAPH SAIED AHMED

New Zealand 'spying on Japan and the Pacific'

Richard Norton-Taylor

BITAIN receives secret intelligence on Japan and targets in the South Pacific from New Zealand as part of a global eavesdropping network dominated by the US National Security Agency, it was revealed yesterday.

The disclosure — which was greeted with an embarrassed silence by those involved in the spying activities — is made in Secret Power, a book written by Nicky Hager, a veteran anti-nuclear campaigner. He interviewed past and present employees of New Zealand's Government Communications Security Bureau, the equivalent of GCHQ, Britain's electronic intelligence-gathering centre in Cheltenham.

New Zealand electronic spy bases pick up the political, military, economic, and civil-

ian communications of Japan and South Pacific island countries, as well as monitoring Chinese and Russian activities in the region, including Russian bases in Antarctica, according to Mr Hager.

The intercepts are routinely passed on to the National Security Agency, GCHQ, and their Canadian and Australian partners in the secret Ukusa signals intelligence agreement signed in 1948.

They are picked up by a worldwide system, code-named Echelon, developed by the US, computers are programmed to pick up messages containing a key word or the numbers of civilian and military targets.

Telephone calls, faxes, and communications on the Internet are covered.

The Guardian first revealed in 1981 that GCHQ was involved in the computer identification system, known as The Dictionary.

vides a forward to the book, said he was unaware of international spying network.

Jim Bolger, the New Zealand prime minister, refused to comment yesterday.

About a third of the GCSB's analysts spy on Japanese commercial and diplomatic traffic, according to Mr Hager.

He adds that the GCSB also spies on "any country in fact that the foreign allies [linked through Ukusa] ask it to".

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"For years the Allen's Tropical Butterfly Garden has been a mecca for nature lovers. Then some upholder of officialdom decided that to protect the public it must be registered under the 1981 Zoo Licensing Act."

SEE PAGE FIVE

A-levels still pass the test

Although there are serious questions to be raised

THERE will be more — and wider — smiles in homes with A-level pupils today. For the ninth successive year more pupils have passed the exam — and more achieved an A grade. Yet even before pupils have opened the envelopes with their individual results, the sceptics were at work. Sir Rhodes Boyson, former education minister and former headteacher, spoke yesterday of an examination system where there was "no longer any rigour... the system has gone soft."

A-level examinations are no longer restricted to an elite. Designed 45 years ago, they initially catered for only three per cent of the age group. Now over 30 per cent of 18-year-olds take them. Of course they have changed. And so they should. Any nation which confines its education to an elite is doomed to failure in the modern world.

Unemployment down again

But job insecurity and inequality remain to be tackled

GOOD NEWS: unemployment continues to fall. July's official count — just over two million — was a five-year low. British unemployment, at a different stage of the cycle, is falling faster than in most of the rest of Europe. But it cannot disguise the rising inequality and insecurity in the labour market.

The Government's supply-side reforms, curbing trade-union power and making it easier to hire and fire, have undoubtedly played a part in growing labour-market insecurity. But not as much as the two deep recessions in the 1980s, that wiped out jobs in manufacturing industry, and created long-lasting insecurity among those still with a job.

In quickness and in health

Who can spare a full four minutes getting married?

IT'S OFFICIAL. It now takes longer to heat a Marks and Spencer chicken tikka in the microwave (four minutes on 650 watts) than it does to get married. A private member's bill, slipped through Parliament by the Tory MP Julian Brazier and due to become law next year, will shorten the existing registry office vows, thus reducing the whole ceremony to under four minutes.

Better still, we could combine getting married with other, more useful errands such as going to the cashpoint. "If you require another transaction press enter. Thank you. If, while you are waiting for your cash to be counted you wish to get married press enter."

(with higher standards needed for good grades in maths and science than in arts or humanities), within subjects (with candidates on modular courses in mathematics achieving at least one grade higher than on conventional courses), and between the six different examination boards.

Critics will grumble about three specific issues: the 86 per cent of pupils who obtained a pass this year compared to the 70 per cent in the early days of the exam. But in the early days, the examiners decreed that 30 per cent would automatically fail. Sensibly, in the 1960s, the exam was "criterion-referenced" so that those who reach the required level are awarded a pass.

Yet when Simpson asked a week later if the MoD would disclose details by date and location of these accidents, the minister retorted: "No, it remains our policy neither to confirm nor deny the presence of nuclear weapons of any particular type or place."

Letters to the Editor

Leak to worry the Prince

YOU are right (Leader, August 12) to assert that "only a full disclosure of the facts can allay public concern" about the Greenham Common nuclear accidents. The suspicion is that the MoD believes such publication would serve to fuel the fires of fear.

How will we know the truth if the report remains secret? Someone who might like to know is Prince Charles, who had just started his second term at Chesham school, a mile downwind from Greenham Common in February 1988.

Morever, rising insecurity exacerbates the rise in inequality. The Rowntree Report showed that between 1978 and 1992 hourly earnings of the average man rose by 33 per cent and the highest paid by 50 per cent; the earnings of those at the bottom hardly changed.

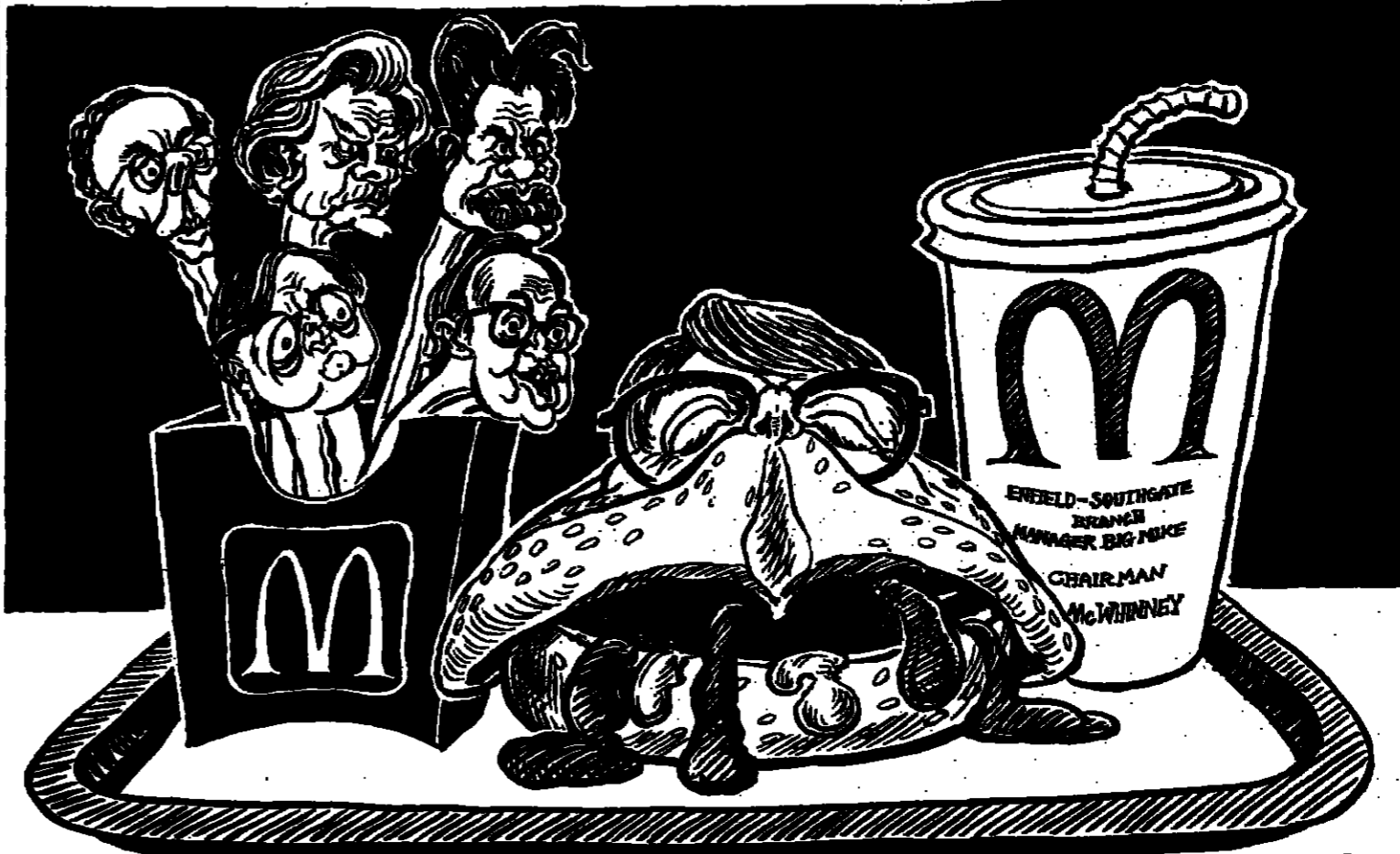
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Mc Major Burger w the small fries! COZES'96

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A shooting match on gun law

ONE ASPECT of the argument about guns (Fury as Tories reject handgun ban, August 14) has not been aired. It is not the gun that kills, but the bullet. I would like to make a simple set of proposals which I believe would reduce the likelihood of another tragedy.

THE objective of the above is to reduce the possibility that any individual, however sane and authorised, may hold one or more weapons and, at the same time, hold the ammunition for them.

There will be arguments that the police do not have sufficient time or resources to undertake the supervision of gun-club ammunition. I propose that the cost of the police effort is identified and the gun club charged double the police costs. This will not

remove the right of clubs to continue but will ensure that complete supervision is provided. RIFacer, Stonemill Cottage, Plumbebrook, Rainow, Macclesfield SK10 5TD.

YOUR leader (A contemptible report, August 14) says that "There is no direct correlation between guns and crime." A cursory glance at the data in the bar chart on page 6 may tell a different story.

REQUIRE that ammunition for sporting-club use is held by police and only taken to club facilities under police control and supervision.

THE moral panic over fertility it is easy to ignore the advantages secured through technological and medical advances. Without an informed debate, it may be that regressive controls are enacted which will limit the possibilities offered to us.

WHEN is someone going to point out that approximately 87 per cent of IVF cycles fail and report on the forgotten pregnancies — the ectopics and miscarriages following fertility treatment?

INVERNESS-SHIRE: Standing under one of the 300-year-old "granny" Scots pine, it was easy to imagine the Great Wood of Caledon that covered so much of the north of Scotland. Some of the mammals have gone, such as the wolf and the beaver — both unfortunately still being considered for reintroduction.

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Diary
Matthew Norman

THE appearance at centre stage of Dame Jill Knight, cerebral MP for Edgubaston and one of those who voted against a handgun ban, has unearthed a modern miracle: Dame Jill is at least four years younger than her twin brother. He is 73, and she is 68 or 69 (she immatures all the time, and may well be 12 by the middle of next week). A newspaper cutting reveals that, as recently as 1980, both twins were born in 1923 — the date that appears in early editions of Who's Who. In later editions, however, Dame Jill is listed as 1927. So has Dame Jill discovered the technique of twins being born years apart was not pioneered last year, as was thought, but in the 1920s? This may explain Dame Jill's uncanny insight into embryology. She recently crystallised the dangers of long-term freezing by saying that, as a housewife, she well knows how difficult it is to make a pie from "pastry left in a deep freeze for longer than six months". How comforting found who does not share the military passion for acronyms. He is Major John Whitman, of the Army's Individual Training Organisation in Wiltshire. Major Whitman's title is Military Assistant/Director General Individual Training.

FROM south-east London comes the most exciting news to hit the keep-fit industry since Jane Fonda discovered the burn. Charles Green of RMP Belmarsh, the man described as Britain's most violent prisoner, is working on a book called Solitary Fitness. Mr Cronson is extremely fit. He recently smashed the world record for sit-ups performed with a medicine ball (thrown to him as "best pal"). His next attempt will be for press-ups with a prison officer sitting on back.

TELEGRAPH enforcer Boris the Jackal Johnson is on versatile form on day backing the Beatles in the Onda debate, and the next using his column to plug a series of his own interviews on Radio 4's The World Tonight. "Be there, or be under the new M2 flyover", as the jingle might put it. It is not long since the Jackal used that same column to ask the voters of Clwyd South for their votes... a declaration of his candidacy that means, under electoral convention, that his rivals must all have equal media exposure. Look forward to the sitting Labour MP, the LibDem, and possibly the Diary itself (no decision has yet been taken on whether to stand in Clwyd South) being invited to join in questioning the likes of Lord Howe.

Second thoughts. We will place this matter in the hands of Nick Hawkins, Tory MP for Blackpool South but now cluck-cluck-clucking along to safe Surrey. He has sent Labour's Susan Jones a letter — dated November 13 1996 (he must be a member of Dame Jill's time-travel club) — threatening to report her to the Privileges Committee for having the words "parliamentary spokesperson for Surrey Heath" on her letterhead. This formula (adopted by Walworth Road instead of Prospect Park Parliamentary Candidate) is a declaration of candidacy, so he claims. If he gets his knickers in such a twist about that, God knows what he'll do to the Jackal.

New Zealand, a High Court judge has attacked falling standards. "What is the world coming to," asked Mr Justice Morris, "when a gang of thieves turn up at a place they are going to rob in a taxi? One reason you were apprehended is that you had no getaway car... I do not know what the state of the country is coming to." Both defendants, illegal immigrants from Fiji, got five years for the raid on a jewellers. Let us hope they get the usual tuition inside, and come out much improved in their field.



Something nasty in the vegetable plot

Commentary George Monbiot

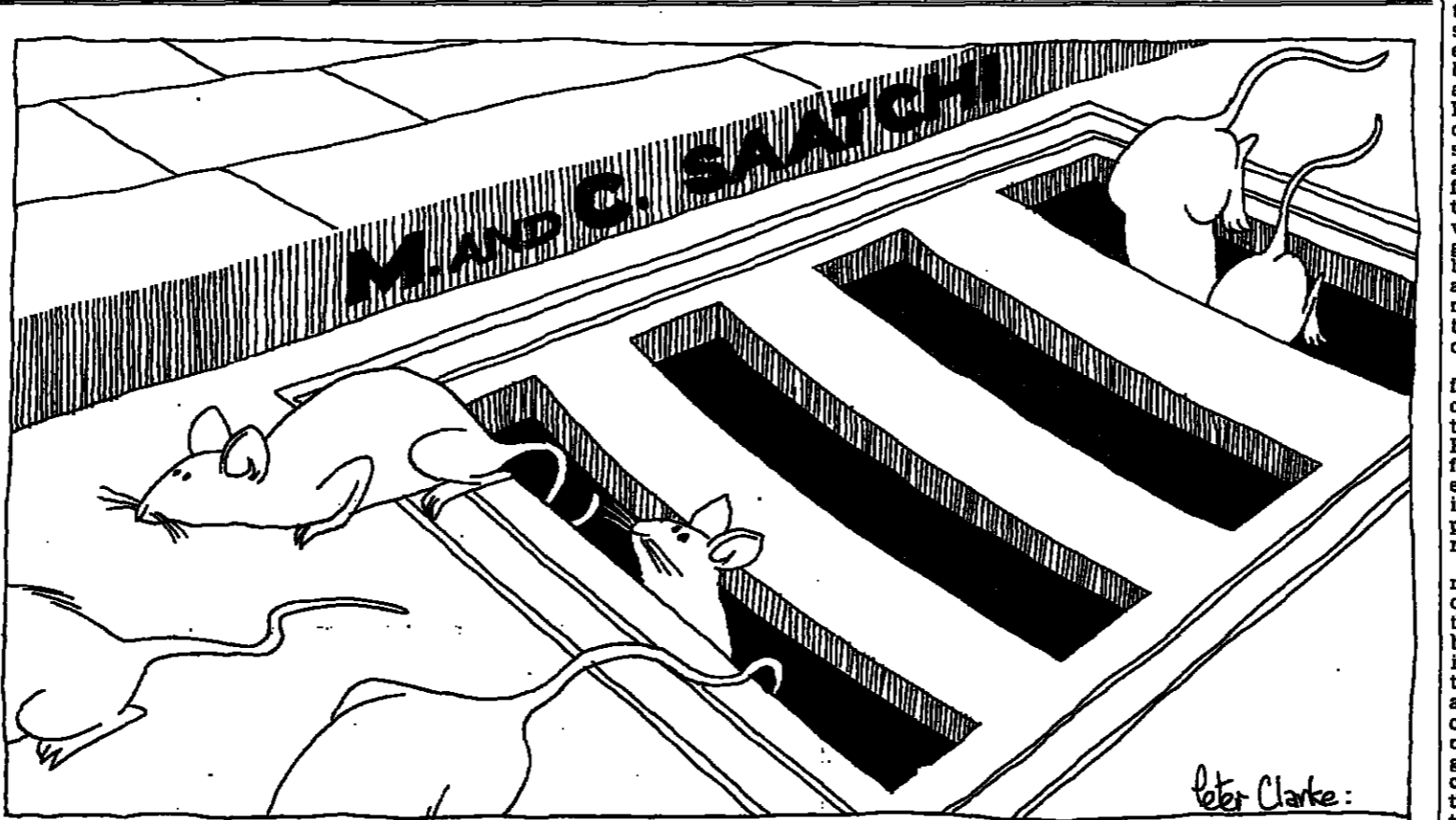
PLANT breeders are dream merchants. There is a trade in impossible fantasy, transformed into scarcely more credible reality. This week we learnt that strawberries the size of pears have gone on sale in California. Within three or four years, according to New Scientist, we'll be able to grow them in Britain.

It's easy to believe, as you cruise the supermarket aisles, past sugar-snaps and baby sweetcorn, spaghetti plants and red brussels sprouts, that, thanks to the genius and persistence of the scientists who made them, the variety of fruit and vegetables has never been greater. But nothing could be further from the truth. Since the second world war, while innovative plant breeding has blossomed in Britain, we have gained some hundreds of new varieties, and lost some thousands of old ones. The wizard and wonderful breeds our grandparents knew — Potato Onions, Pig's Snout Apples, Hedgehog Pears — are now all but impossible to find. What we see in the supermarkets is, for some fruit and vegetable species, just about all there is. It's sad, you may think, but scarcely surprising. The market is maturing, and maturation means concentration and economy of scale. If vast numbers of people are to be adequately fed, then food production must take place on a vast scale. Were there a mass market for Hedgehog Pears, then Hedgehog Pears would doubtless be crumming Tesco's shelves.

So it's a shock to discover that most of what we have lost has not been marketed away, but legislated away. Specialist trading in many of the old varieties is now illegal. We have been cut off, by the harshest plant-breeding laws on earth, not only from our history and our heritage but also from what is surely the foundation stone of self-determination: the ability to grow your own food, on your own terms. The trouble began, like so much of our asinine farm legislation, with good intentions. Plant breeders could spend decades developing a disease-resistant radish or a new hard-milling wheat, only to see other traders multiplying it and selling it as their own. Sharpshooters would pass off inferior seed as a brilliant new variety, and their hapless clients wouldn't know whether they had bought a beanstalk to the giant's kingdom or a shrivelled stick, until the trader was over the horizon. But even as the first Plant Varieties and Seeds Bill passed through Parliament in 1964, it became clear that the legislators' intentions had already been subverted. Instead of protecting both buyers and sellers of seed, the bill concentrated only on the interests of some of the sellers. As more and more of the trade has subsequently been swallowed up by a few vast petrochemical and food-processing companies, the noise has tightened every time the law has been revised.

The Act demanded that a register, or National List, of plant varieties be compiled. Anyone marketing a breed not included on the list can be prosecuted, even if that marketing meant swapping a handful of seeds for a box of eggs. To get on to the National List, a plant variety must pass a series of rigorous tests. It must be deemed distinct from all other varieties. It must produce a uniform and true-breeding crop, and, for some species, it must be of commercial value. If it qualifies, the person seeking to register it must pay a fee — generally around £2,000, plus £350 for every year it stays on the list. At a stroke, thousands of varieties were ruled outside the law. Many were distinct, but were not recognised as such by the inspectors. Others had been bred *not* to be uniform, but to produce a crop which didn't need to be harvested all at once. Seeds deemed to be of little commercial value to farmers were of great non-commercial value to gardeners. The fees rendered specialist seeds invisible, and put many of the smaller breeders out of business. The loss of old varieties threatens not only to obliterate the past, but also to manipulate the future. Just as the idea of widespread organic farming in Britain gains credibility, we are losing the crops which flourish without great doses of pesticide and fertiliser.

A FEW have been kept alive, but only by bending the rules. The Henry Doubtless Research Association has saved some 700 breeds, giving away the seeds of de-listed varieties to its members in return for an annual fee. Being forced to buy new varieties when you'd prefer to buy old ones would be bad enough. But the Ministry of Agriculture's rigid interpretation of international protocols means that buying a new breed is beginning to look like a Faustian pact. This year, new legislation entitled plant breeders to claim royalties from people growing seed for their own use. If, in other words, you let your lettuce run to seed, and save that seed to plant next year, the company you bought the packet from can demand to be paid. As big corporations engulf smaller corporations, and take control not only of seed production, but also of pesticide and fertiliser manufacture, food processing and the wholesale trade, there's a danger that farmers could soon be reduced to little more than contractors, forced to return their harvest at a pre-set price to the company from which they bought their seed. Already, as the agricultural economist Tracey Clunies-Ross has documented, the Scottish seed-potato industry has been taken over by four or five big companies, which are forcing all other breeders to sell their produce to them for £140 a tonne, then passing it on to English farmers for more than twice that amount. It looks like a cartel, it works like a cartel, but, according to the Scottish Office, it is exempt from monopoly referral. For all its rhetoric of choice and free trade, the Government has no desire to protect either the grower or the consumer from the burgeoning rapacity of the corporations. As we wander dreaming down the supermarkets' fantasy galleries, across the farms and gardens of Britain the searchlight of big business seeks out the last tangled corners of self-reliance and autonomy. We are left as helpless and dependent as a rabbit in its beam.



Attack, attack, attack

Martin Rosenbaum puts the 'demon' Blair in the context of political warfare while below, Julian Critchley says please stop frightening the kiddies

AS Tony Blair studies the Conservative ads portraying him as demonic, he can reflect that he is hardly the first politician to face a personalised propaganda offensive on the route to Downing Street. When, for example, Benjamin Disraeli fought Shrewsbury in the 1841 election, he discovered that an opponent had placarded the town with detailed estimates of his extensive personal debts. Disraeli nevertheless won, with the help of any Labour-type "rebuttal unit", but possibly with the aid of some judicious bribery. Newspaper advertising first played an important national role in British politics in the 1950s. As the professional admen started to get involved, they initially stuck to the classic advertising dictum that knocking copy was counter-productive and they avoided personal denigration. This was exemplified by the famous Tory posters of the 1959 election, captioned "Life's better with the Conservatives — Don't let Labour ruin it!" But the ad agencies gradually realised that politicians operated by different rules. In the late 1960s political strategists decided more and more to accentuate the negative, and the tone of party advertisements and broadcasts became gradually more aggressive. The first really dramatic attack ad was launched by Labour in the run up to the 1970 election. It featured lurid Plasticine models of six leading Tories (Heath, Mandelson, Macleod, Douglas-Horne, Hogg and Powell), along with brief derogatory biographies of each.

The ad was headlined "Yesterday's Men (They failed before)". This prompted the same widespread condemnation of " gutter politics" that the Tory "demon Blair" ad has provoked. Labour leaders were unimpressed by the angry reaction, and the campaign was quietly dropped. Labour may have felt it got its fingers burnt, but the Tories unleashed some equally hard-hitting onslaughts in party political broadcasts in the next campaign in February 1974. One starred an unpleasant puppet of Harold Wilson, spewing forth money for the miners, nationalisation and food subsidies. The dominance of negativity in political advertising was reinforced by the impact of the work Saatchi and Saatchi did for the Conservatives after becoming the party's ad agency in 1978. The Saatchi philosophy was "attack, attack, attack", despite the fact that politicians often wanted more positive ads boasting of government achievements. The agency's most effective ads in the three elections from 1979 to 1992 were characterised by their simple, blunt aggression: "Labour Isn't Working", 1978; "Like Your Manifesto, Comrade" (comparing the Labour and Communist manifestos), 1983; "Labour's Policy on Arms" (a picture of a soldier with arms up to surrender), 1987; and "Labour's Tax Bombshell", 1992. But they all had something else in common too — they criticised policy not personalities. This was not because Saatchi always wanted to avoid personal attacks. In 1983, when Michael Foot was Labour leader, it designed an ad to emphasise Foot's age and apparent infirmity. A picture of Foot using his walking stick, which showed him at his most doddering, was captioned "Under the Conservatives all pensioners are better off". But the ad was vetoed by Margaret Thatcher, who was already confident of overwhelming victory.

IN 1992 another Saatchi idea was a poster consisting simply of a picture of Neil Kinnock and the slogan "Vote Conservative", but this also failed to get beyond the drawing board. This time, however, the Tory chairman Brian Mawhinney appears to have removed the restraints from Maurice Saatchi and his team, now running the Tory campaign from Maurice's new agency, M and C Saatchi. This may well indicate desperation, not least because the Tory tabloids will probably not run the sort of vicious anti-Blair propaganda they deployed effectively against Foot and Kinnock. So the Conservatives have to do it themselves. And despite Labour's complaints, it too has indulged in pugnaacious personal attacks when thought advantageous. A 1987 party-political broadcast featured a series of unflattering caricatures of Thatcher, cut to the sound of "A realiser royal". Quotes from the Gondoliers. And another broadcast last year accused John Major of telling "pork pies". As Maurice Saatchi once said, "Politics campaigning is a world of trial by combat, in which you would hit and be hit." Always has been, always will be.

Martin Rosenbaum is the author of From Soapbox To Soundbite: Party Political Campaigning in Britain Since 1945, to be published by Macmillan in January 1997

Don't let go of Nurse

IS Conservative Central Office off its head? Always a law unto itself, the party headquarters, in its attempt to demonise Tony Blair, has achieved now save to embarrass every senior Tory to whom I have spoken. Blair has more in common with Red Riding Hood than with the wicked wolf. Ever since the Labour party's spin doctors came up with the slogan "New Labour", the Tory party's witch doctors have been left floundering in a cauldron of their own making. First it was "New Labour Old Danger" which served only to underline the obvious fact that the Labour party has changed its spots. "New Labour" is a slogan of genius, making as it does two points at once. First, that Blair is no Michael Foot and secondly, that the Tories have been in power for the best part of 17 years. How best to counter it? Certainly not by making personal attacks. Tony Blair is clearly unproven, but he does come across as a decent bloke who is doing his level best to bring Old Labour to its senses. In this task he is greatly aided by the Clare Shorts of this world. Blair, however, does suffer from the touch of the Cliff Richards in that he is wet rather than demonic, and to cast him in the role of the Norman Tebbit of the People's Party is to turn politics into light entertainment. It is doubly ironic that when the left of the Labour Party reinforces Blair's appeal every time it opens its mouth, the Eurosceptic wing of the Tory party weakens the Government's standing by drawing attention to the divisions that run through the Conservative Party. A period of silence on the part of John Redwood would be very welcome. But what of Central Office? Why do we have to rely upon smart Alec brought in from the world of three-hour lunches, soap powders and portable telephones? What do they know about politics? We are not

short of experience. John Wakeham, Geoffrey Howe and Ian Gilmour: it is their brains we should be picking. But then should Conservative Central Office do to persuade the voter to return to the fold? Most important of all there should be no gimmicks; the answer to Blair is to let him twist in the wind, for we have nine months before we must go to the country. The voter may soon tire of his school-boy charm and winning ways. The best slogans of the past like "Don't Let Labour Ruin It" have placed as much emphasis on the positive as upon the negative. It is never enough to attack your opponents for what they might do in office; it is more important to list one's achievements and promise more of the same. "New Labour" is taking care not to

go into detail. There is nothing to stop the Tories from doing so, whether on public spending (more) or taxation (very clearly more). The voter votes with his pocket. In the meantime, Central Office should part the "magicians" and spin-doctors out to grass. Give Heseltine, and other ministers like Dorrell, Portillo and Howard their heads, a halfway decent budget from Ken Clarke, and a fifth election victory is not beyond our grasp. There are signs of light. All the more reason to stop frightening the kiddies with red-eyed monsters. "Stay hold of Nurse for fear of finding something worse", is a better slogan than anything we have recently had from the clever chaps at 32 Smith Square.

Julian Critchley is the Conservative MP for Aldershot

Why A-level students are doing so well

Tony Higgins believes the improved results out today are cause for celebration and not carping

TODAY is a day of celebration. Let us congratulate all those who have passed their A level examinations and passed them well. This year we see a further improvement in the grades achieved and that achievement will doubtless be met by a cacophony of complaints that standards are falling. Those who suggest this would be the same people, who if the results were worse than in previous years, would start to question what is going wrong in Britain's schools and why do we lag so far behind others. They cannot have it both ways. Why is it that performance is rising so spectacularly? Surely a generation cannot become that touch more intelligent so quickly? The answer may lie in some very detailed research carried out by the government of Singapore, which is a country very fastidious about educational standards. The same phenomenon of improved grades was being noted in that country achieved by students who sit English A levels. The results of the research showed that students adopted better examination techniques, their families were able to buy them additional aids such as videos, books, computer programs and tapes; there are better teaching techniques and facilities and students are more strongly motivated so as to be able to get to university or college.

So it is in Britain. I was fascinated to receive only the other day a series of audio tapes entitled How Your Exams Are Marked, which featured a number of chief examiners. Armed with that information students can approach the examination game much better informed. Also, this year has seen the first major increase in the number of examinees who have done their A levels on a modular basis, as they have been examined at various stages of the two-year syllabus and their assessment achieved throughout the course has been counted towards the final grade. It must be easier, comes the cry, for people to sit the exam at the end of the first term and then forget it to go on to the next stage. Not so. First we are examining students at full A level standard even though they may not have reached the full intellectual maturity that they will reach at the end of the two-year course, and arguably, therefore, those examinations are relatively more hard for them. Second, in many syllabi

buses it is not a question of forgetting what has recently been taught, but of missed since the syllabus naturally continues from the earlier module. There is nothing new in modularity. All those commentators and others who have been to university themselves will, in the main, have done a subsidiary or supplementary subject in their single honours course which was doubtless examined at the end of the first year or possibly at the end of the second and which was then put aside. But it counted towards the final degree assessment. These are also the first A level exams taken by candidates who have followed the full new national curriculum in English, maths and the sciences. Isn't it time to give the Government credit for one of its educational reforms? And then there is the complaint that the questions are getting easier. When will people learn that it is not the questions that are important but the answers? If you are asked the question "Are Britain's sporting achievements at international events such as the Olympic Games a disgrace?" you might well answer "yes" and be correct, but you get no marks for the answer.

AND who, frankly, is prepared to agree that the best way to test a level student's ability is to sit him or her, in a doubtless stressed condition, in an examination hall regularly over a period of a few weeks, then to answer questions in two or three hours on the basic skills to be shown are ones of memory and ability to write quickly and legibly. Those syllabuses which allow for course-work mean that if you are posed a question such as "What were the reasons for the collapse of the Soviet empire?" you would have books, newspapers, films and individuals at your disposal so that there would be no excuse for your not being able to produce a full and complete answer. The standards therefore would be highly exacting. Your answer would also doubtless be one which would be reflected in the way in which you would be working in the future. If asked the same question, which needed to be finished in a 45-minute essay answer, surely you could only approximate to perfection and examiners would of course need to make allowances for that. So let us take comfort from the quality shown by our younger generation and express the hope that the Government will not let the students down and therefore adequately fund the universities and colleges where they have deservedly won their places.

Tony Higgins is chief executive of the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service

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Finance Guardian

City damps rate cut hope

Richard Thomas
Economics Correspondent

CITY pundits were yesterday playing down hopes of an imminent cut in interest rates after a sharper-than-expected fall in unemployment and fresh evidence of Bank of England resistance to an easing of policy.

With fears growing that a rapidly-shrinking dollar queue will provoke an inflationary pick-up in wages, forecasts of cheaper money — kindled earlier in the week by subdued factory-gate prices — had been dashed, some economists said.

Further indications of friction over monetary policy between the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, and the Governor of the Bank of England, Eddie George, came in the minutes of the July 3 meeting between the two men.

Mr George reiterated his opposition to the June quarter-point cut in base rates to 5.75 per cent and strongly advised against any further easing.

Julian Jessop, UK economist at broker Nikko Europe,

said the markets had been wrong-footed by the 34,100 June fall in the unemployment total, against expectations of a 10,000 drop.

An upwards revision to the May annual earnings figures, from 3.5 per cent to 3.75 per cent, also rattled dealers.

"The combination of the labour market data — including the signs of wages ticking up — and the minutes have

changed sentiment on rates," he said.

Mr Jessop said that unless Mr Clarke resists the temptation to cut taxes in his November budget, the "window of opportunity" for rate cuts would close.

"If he cuts now, it could badly backfire in the markets. There would be a real danger of a loss of credibility. The picture in monetary policy

now is likely to be one of broad stability."

Ahead of today's retail price figures, the debt and money markets read the jobless data as widening the odds on an autumn easing of monetary policy.

Gift futures were down by half a point by the close.

Starting lost some ground immediately after the release, although the pound still

closed over a pennig up against a stagnant German currency at 2.3087.

Andrew Milligan, economic adviser at General Accident Investment Management, said yesterday's data would strengthen the Bank's case against rate cuts.

"A stronger-than-expected fall in unemployment, an upwards revision to average earnings growth and signs of

only a slow deceleration in unit wage costs are all grist to the mill for inflation bears," he said.

In the July monetary policy meeting, Mr George pointed to the strength of the money supply and growing consumer spending as a warning sign of future inflation.

"Last month's interest rate cut would, in itself, have increased the risk to the inflation target," the governor said.

Although Mr George said that an immediate reversal of the cut would "send confusing signals to the financial markets and wider economy", last week's Inflation Report from the Bank called on the Chancellor to tighten policy sooner rather than later.

But the minutes show that Mr Clarke was relaxed about the prospects for inflation. "If growth did accelerate to the point where the inflation target was being put at risk, there would be sufficient time to act prudently," he said.

The Chancellor said his aim was to allow the economy to grow as fast as possible consistent with the inflation target of 2.5 per cent.

He said the economy was "gathering strength, but not too fast".

Notebook

Germany is the place of interest



Mark Milner

INTEREST rates are very much on the minds of the monetary authorities in Britain, Germany and France. The perception is that the first two are in a position to consider a cut in rates, while France would very much like to do so but will have to wait for events across the Rhine.

Take Britain first. Yesterday's publication of the minutes of the July meeting between the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, and the Governor of the Bank of England, Eddie George, will have caused few surprises.

The governor, no doubt with exquisite politeness, indicated that the previous month's cut in interest rates to 5.75 per cent had increased the risks that the Government would not be able to meet its inflation target. Indeed he warned it might well have brought forward the time when rates would have to be raised.

Certainly Mr George was firm against any further cut in rates, though he did accept that there was no fresh evidence to force the Chancellor to reverse the June reduction and sensibly acknowledged that such a volte-face would, in any case, send unfortunate signals to financial markets.

For his part, the Chancellor himself appeared slightly inquisitorial in his July discussions with the Governor. If in fact, as it would seem, flatationary pressures did start to appear in the economy there would be sufficient time to act prudently. That might sound rather like Sir Francis Drake's observation on that famous game of bowls and a looming Spanish armada, but within six days Mr Clarke had underlined his view of what was happening to the economy by announcing a modest downward revision of the 3 per cent growth forecast in last year's Budget.

The result of the discussions was what might be regarded as a scoring draw: interest rates were left on hold. The two men will resume the debate in September with the evidence subsequent to their July discussions still ambivalent.

EARLIER this week the latest producer prices data showed inflationary pressures within the manufacturing sector at their lowest level for 30 years. This immediately sparked speculation that Mr Clarke might be tempted into a further cut in rates, though one motivated more perhaps by politics than economics.

Any ardour there was for such a move, however, was tempered by yesterday's unemployment figures and by the average earnings data, which were rather ahead of expectations in the City.

Those will not be the only factors that Messrs Clarke and George have to review

when they meet next. European rates could have edged down another notch by then. The Bundesbank council is due to meet later this month. Prior to its summer break the German central bank appeared to have been hinting that it was prepared to cut German borrowing costs, but in the event it failed to deliver. Now, in its chief economist, Otmir Issing, it again appears to be encouraging financial markets to believe it is considering a cut.

Mr Issing told the International Herald Tribune that German economic recovery was not assured and that the strength of the mark "does not fit into the current economic landscape".

THAT is being interpreted as a sign that the Bundesbank is seriously considering a rate cut on its mind, and in the short term at least it had the desired effect of knocking the mark back against the dollar.

Few will view events in Frankfurt as a sign that the possibility of a rate cut on its mind, and in the short term at least it had the desired effect of knocking the mark back against the dollar.

Whatever the truth, both the Bank of France and the administration will breathe a sigh of relief if the Bundesbank does cut rates — allowing Paris to follow suit without appearing to undermine its commitment to the policy of the franc fort. For many in France, monetary mechanism is one thing; an unemployment rate of 12 per cent another. In Germany, where unemployment has topped the four million mark, there are also those who would feel a little easier if interest rates were trimmed again.

It remains to be seen if the Bundesbank will share that view, despite both domestic factors and external pressures which include suggestions that unless the Germans help France out of its economic dilemma (via lower interest rates) there could be serious consequences for monetary union. Indeed there are those who suggest that the Bundesbank, as custodian of the value of the German currency, might be less than enthusiastic about the whole idea of monetary union.

That might appear fanciful, though if the German central bank starts to believe that the single currency will not bear the stamp of the Bundesbank's own brand of monetary rectitude, it is likely to make its opinion known.

Meanwhile, with financial markets waiting for a German interest rate cut, events are beginning to bear an uncomfortable resemblance to September 1992 and August 1993, when the Bundesbank disappointed market expectations over interest rates and unleashed storms on foreign exchanges.

Bundesbank aims to weaken mark

Richard Thomas

AFRESH campaign to talk down the German mark was launched by the Bundesbank yesterday in an attempt to ease the pressure on beleaguered manufacturers.

Otmir Issing, the Bundesbank's normally hawkish chief economist, said a strong D-mark did "not fit into the current economic landscape".

In a newspaper interview, he said exporters were being hit by the overvaluation of the German

currency and warned that the young economic recovery — led by firms selling goods overseas — was not well established.

"It is not yet robust enough that you can say with certainty that it will continue," he said.

Market-watchers said the interview had prompted speculation the Bundesbank might trim German interest rates when the central council meets next week.

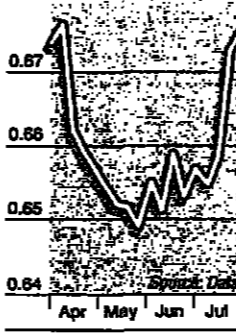
Analysts said an easing of German monetary policy would offer a helping hand to French authorities anxious about a softening franc.

Don Smith, economist at HSBC James Capel, said: "Issing's comments are a tentative sign that the Bundesbank is sensitive to the weakness of the French currency."

Mr Smith said the German currency had not reacted to the interview, remaining virtually unchanged against the yen and US dollar. But the franc did perk up, approaching a monthly high of DM5.43 against the German currency in late trading.

German mark

Against \$US



Taking a powder... consumers think the choice of brands is confusing, Procter & Gamble has found. PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID SILLITOE

Soap simplification will mean fewer brands

Dan Atkinson fathoms the mystery of those labels, and explains how Procter & Gamble is culling them

ONCE it was all so easy: there was the powder that washed whiter than white, there was another that gave you that special softness and a third that washed away those "biological stains", a euphemism for just about every revolting excess of the human body. Actresses beamed out of the TV, posing as house-

wives. A cardboard box of soap powder sat on every kitchen windowsill. The toughest choice facing the shopper was whether to go for all-action OMO or super-valve Fairy.

It couldn't last... it didn't. Come the 1980s, come "compacts", soap powders in suspiciously small packages claiming to be as good, nay better, than their traditional brethren,

now relabelled "big box" and looked down on as fit only for proletarian types using vintage washing machines.

Hot on the heels of the liquids and hot on their heels came the "super-compacts", soap powders in suspiciously small packages claiming to be... well, you get the picture.

By the mid-1990s, despite recession and consumer depression, the detergent section of the average supermarket took up half an aisle with a baffling array of cleansing agents, all confusingly similar whilst si-

multaneously cunningly different.

The shopper has cried enough, and Procter & Gamble — parent of Aerial, Bold, Dix and Fairy — has heard. Or so it says.

P&G yesterday announced its "great soap simplification", due in October. As a stroke, the company is eliminating the original compact (Ariel Ultra and Aerial Color), thus leaving customers with a straight(ish) choice — conventional powder (all the above) and super-compacts (Aerial Futur and Futur Color). Clear so far?

For those who would prefer it were P&G to learn how to spell properly, there is little cheer. But for others, "simplification" will "clarify" the relationship between regular and super-compacts. In a ratio reminiscent of yesterday's strategic arms reduction talks, 2-1 it is, both in terms of price and striking power.

In other words, a 3-kilo pack of regular equals a 1.5-kilo pack of super-compact, penny for penny.

Or rather, scoop for scoop. Because P&G, pre-empting monetary union, has swept away "the previous mixture of cups and beakers" and declared "the

scoop will become the 'currency' of use". There will be large scoops for regular powder and half-size for super-compact. "Thus both a 3kg regular pack and the equivalent 1.5kg Futur pack will contain the same number of scoops and will last the same length of time".

Given that they will also clean the same number of clothes and cost exactly the same amount of money, innocents may wonder why we cannot return to the days of one box, one powder. But that, perhaps, would be a simplification too far.

No cash for new statistics

Richard Thomas

GOVERNMENT plans for a new monthly measure of economic activity have been mothballed because of insufficient resources, according to Whitehall sources.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has called a halt to groundwork on a monthly estimate of gross domestic product, originally intended to supplement the existing quarterly yardstick, after being forced to trim staff numbers.

One government official said: "This idea has been quietly left to gather dust. Given the pressures the ONS is under, it is simply too

marginal to be a priority."

This year the ONS, the product of a merger of the Central Statistical Office and the Office for Population Censuses and Surveys, is expected to shed 200 staff, one-twentieth of the existing payroll, in order to cut £2 million from its £100 million budget by the end of the century.

But ONS insiders also pointed to the problem of collecting data of sufficient accuracy to construct a monthly yardstick for the output of the whole economy. Even the quarterly figures have been subject to substantial revisions in recent years, sometimes with adverse market consequences.

"Even if a number could be produced, it might be so flaky that the ONS wouldn't dare publish it," one source said.

Last night an Office spokesman said: "It is true that we have no plans to introduce a monthly GDP measure in the near future."

"We are hoping to get more information on the service sector of the economy, but there is a lot further to go before you can produce a number for the whole economy. It is a question of resources and where to focus them most effectively."

A monthly GDP series was the brainchild of the previous head of the Central Statistical Office, Bill Maclean, and the ONS chief, Tim Holt, is said to be less enthusiastic.

£60m bonuses at SBC

Sarah Whitebloom

HIGH-FLYING bankers and brokers with the City institution SBC Warburg and its parent Swiss Banking Corporation have shared in a bonus bonanza worth nearly £90 million, according to its interim results yesterday.

The figures show that SBC's personnel costs for the six months to the end of June leaped by 34.4 per cent compared with the same period last year, to £1.1 billion.

Most of the rise relates to the incorporation of SG Warburg, which SBC acquired in July 1995. But, SBC told shareholders yesterday, 7 per

cent of the increase in staff costs — about £9 million — related specifically to "performance-related compensation". It is understood the cash was shared between investment banking and fund management staff and top SBC executives.

The bonuses were paid as SBC reported a big rise in income from investment banking and fund management. Total net commission was £1.14 billion, up 68.5 per cent on the same period last year, with commission from securities trading and investment up 73.3 per cent on the first six months of 1995.

According to SBC, Warburg and private banking had "excellent operational perfor-

mances". The bank said Warburg had exceeded its financial targets.

In addition, the bank — with 20,000 staff worldwide — reported a 10 per cent rise in net interest income. Overall, SBC reported pre-tax profits of £355.5 million — 33 per cent up on last year. Group net profits were £388 million — 34 per cent ahead.

This still disappointed some City critics, who expected a leap of up to 50 per cent following better-than-expected results from UBS, a main competitor. Most disappointment centred on a 37 per cent increase in SBC's provisions, to £366 million. The bank said they would remain high in the second half.

Legal challenge to Lloyd's package

Les Buckingham

LLOYD'S £3.2 billion rescue package was yesterday branded as an unlawful scheme which discriminated against some of the 300-year-old market's most loyal investors and undermined its fundamental principles.

Richard Gordon QC described the reconstruction proposals as "irrational and perverse" as he attempted to persuade the High Court that the 1,275-strong Paying Names Action Group should be allowed a judicial review of the plans.

The legal challenge, deferred earlier this week to allow investors to raise £500,000 to fight the case,

comes just two weeks before 34,000 Lloyd's Names have to decide on the £3.2 billion reconstruction scheme. That is designed to draw a line under the insurance market's disastrous losses.

The proposals favour Names who have refused to pay their underwriting losses and have opted for legal action against the market.

Investors who have paid their dues claim to have been unfairly treated — and yesterday's action was launched in the name of four paying names including Oxfordshire housewife Susan Johnson whose losses top £1 million.

Mr Gordon said the losses suffered by the 1,275 paying Names accounted for 6 per cent of the total market losses before 1992.

| TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Australia 1.9250 | France 7.5835 | Italy 2.303 | Singapore 2.13 |
| Austria 15.84 | Germany 2.2225 | Malta 0.5350 | South Africa 8.54 |
| Belgium 43.74 | Greece 358.50 | Netherlands 2.4965 | Spain 168.00 |
| Canada 2.0775 | Hong Kong 11.87 | New Zealand 2.1975 | Sweden 10.12 |
| Cyprus 0.6895 | India 55.21 | Norway 9.8255 | Switzerland 1.975 |
| Denmark 8.6450 | Ireland 0.9445 | Portugal 229.75 | Turkey 126.650 |
| Finland 6.84 | Israel 4.67 | Saudi Arabia 5.77 | USA 1.5125 |

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli sheqel)

Miners at closure-threatened North Wales pit consider following Tower example



Tyrone O'Sullivan (far left), leader of the employee purchase of Tower Colliery, Mid Glamorgan, yesterday offered advice to mining union representatives from Point of Ayr, North Wales' last colliery, on their plan for a £1.2 million buy-out by 200 pitmen. Owner RJB Mining has announced the mine's closure. PHOTOGRAPH: JEFF MORGAN

Cable twist lands BICC in the red

Ian King

BICC, the cables and construction group which owns the contractor Balfour Beatty, has dived into the red after one-off hits more than wiped out profits.

BICC made a pre-tax loss of £2 million during the first half of 1996 — against profits of £50 million for the same time last year — due partly to problems at KWO, its struggling German cables business, battered by difficult trading conditions.

BICC made a charge of £25 million to cover asset write-downs and redundancies at KWO, which along with £40 million in property write-downs was more than enough to wipe out the £68 million in profits.

BICC also said it would be cutting another 180 jobs at KWO, bringing total redundancies at the subsidiary over the last year to 590, and warned there was still no sign of improvement in the German cable market.

Among the property write-downs, the company slashed the book value of its interest in London's Spitalfields development site by £25 million, although BICC said it was "actively following up" opportunities for the site, where a deal has been agreed with ABN Amro, the Dutch banking group.

However, despite the trouble at KWO, BICC's cable division still managed to improve operating profits from £46 million to £56 million.

Announcing the figures, the chief executive, Alan Jones, said the benefits of BICC's rationalisation of its worldwide cable operations were starting to come through.

He said BICC was also expanding its cable business into new markets, such as India, Egypt, Peru and the United Arab Emirates.

But Mr Jones said the picture remained bleak at Balfour Beatty, where operating profits slid from £13 million to £1 million, and he warned that things were unlikely to improve in the short term.

One bright spot at Balfour Beatty was the performance of its three track-renewal-and-maintenance units, bought from British Rail in April, which helped to offset difficulties elsewhere in the division, particularly in the United States, where the division made a loss.

Balfour Beatty is now Britain's biggest private sector rail contractor, and is concentrating in the South-east, where it expects work to come from such projects as the Channel Tunnel high-speed rail link.

Meanwhile, Mr Jones said that Balfour Beatty's general construction business was continuing to perform competently, while the division continued to win "significant" overseas project work.

Despite the loss, BICC shares climbed 5p to 320p on the figures, which were in line with City forecasts.

Fiddling and yet unashamed

WORKFACE/Dole cheats or simply the desperate poor? Mark O'Sullivan meets workers targeted by the snoopers' hotline

OUTSIDE a north London underground station it is 7am and half a dozen men are hanging about in well-worn boots, waiting for low-paid casual labouring work in the building trade. "I remember when there were hundreds of blokes here," one says. "You couldn't get into a cafe at 6 o'clock in the morning. That's the way the building has gone down."

Most sign on for the dole, while taking what marginal work they can get. So they now find themselves fair game for the Government's new "snoopers' hotline"

which encourages people to shop fraudulent benefit claimants.

Sean, a 47-year-old from Northern Ireland, is a typical example. "You arrive from 6am and normally give up at 8 o'clock. A van might pull up and ask if you need a shift. You reply: 'What's the shillings?' They say something like 25 or 30. That's the rate from my experience. I wouldn't work for anything less than that."

"But some people accept £15 a day. You make your mind up depending whether it's 6.30am or 8.30am. The work you get could be anything. You're just there on the

chance that someone needs bodies."

Sean claims benefit and accepts the downside of an illegal supplementary income: "If you have an accident, you have no comeback. When you're signing on and you have an accident you may have to change your circumstances and go on the sick. You say you tripped on a pavement or something like that. It's a question of finding a pot-hole four inches deep."

Asked whether he feels guilty about defrauding the system, Sean says: "Not at all. I'm just down here. Those people are up there."

Backed by a £500,000 publicity campaign, the hotline launched this month by Social Security Secretary Peter Lilley — replacing a benefit helpline — has already been a wild success in the Government's terms, with

12,500 calls in its first week. But critics complain there is no effort to target large-scale, organised fraudsters rather than those eking out an income on the margins of the labour market. They contrast the estimated £1.4 billion lost through dole fiddling with the £7 billion lost from tax fraud.

Gareth, from Swansea, gave up looking for a job after he was tipped off in a pub that the DSS had put a five-strong surveillance team on him.

He now lives on £26.72 benefit per fortnight. "I've no money in the bank. I've never been a criminal," he says. At the age of 40, Gareth is bitter about claimants' treatment.

"The biggest scoundrels are the electricity board, the gas board, those type of people."

Barry Reamsbottom, general secretary of the civil service union CPSA, believes the Government's new hotline

will further stigmatise the unemployed and increase grudge attacks on DSS counter staff. He also believes that the campaign is hitting the wrong targets. "It should attack private landlords and collusive employers who encourage employees to sign on in order to pay lower wages," he says.

But Dr Madsen Pirie, president of the free market think-tank the Adam Smith Institute, dismisses the argument that benefit fraud effectively subsidises low-wage employers as nonsense. "Cheating the taxpayer is cheating the taxpayer. Fraud is fraud. Most fraud in the system is perpetrated by individuals and if it is the case that there are employers committing fraud or encouraging fraud, that should be acted against too."

Katherine, a Yorkshire woman in her late 30s, had not worked for eight years when she found a part-time job making lunchtime food in a local pub. "My self-confidence was at an all-time low. I gave up any course they sent me on because I didn't feel capable of achieving anything. Working here, even if it is only a couple of hours a day, has helped me realise that I can do something."

She has no qualms about claiming the dole. "My pay only amounts to about £50 a week. You can't live on £50."

Pointing out that the major trade unions are now calling for a minimum wage of £4-plus an hour, she says: "If I could get that I wouldn't need to sign on. Taxpayers aren't subsidising scoundrels, they are subsidising the bosses who are paying low wages when their employees are signing on."

News in brief

Moscow city buys Zil car company

RUSSIA'S privatisation programme suffered a high-profile casualty yesterday when the Moscow city authorities bought a controlling stake in Zil, the troubled automotive manufacturer whose cars were once among the favourite status symbols of Soviet bureaucrats.

The Mayor of Moscow, Yuri Luzhkov, announced that the city had bought the Zil stake from Microdin, a large Russian trading company that has tried unsuccessfully to impose its will on the company's management.

Mr Luzhkov attacked Russia's privatisation programme for bringing Soviet-era industrial giants to "complete ruin" and said they should remain in government hands. He vowed to reorganise Zil and make it profitable.

Zil was a major producer of heavy trucks as well as its trademark limousines during the Soviet era, but it has found few buyers for its products since then.

US fines Japanese bank

THE US unit of Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan was fined \$1 million (£645 million) yesterday for falsifying bond trading records and other banking violations.

The penalty was one of the largest ever imposed by the New York State Banking Department, and it is the latest confrontation between domestic regulators and a Japanese bank. In addition to the fine, the bank's New York-based trust unit was barred from the securities lending business.

Earlier this year, the US authorities fined Daiwa Bank \$340 million for a delay in reporting a \$1.1 billion bond trading loss at its New York subsidiary. The LTCB scandal centres on a trader at the bank who allegedly conducted unauthorised securities transactions and faked records to conceal the trades.

The bank acknowledged in a statement that "irregularities" had occurred. — AP

Home outlay falls

LOWER mortgage rates and rising earnings have more than outweighed rising house prices during the last quarter, according to the TSB. The bank's "affordability index" says that on average, borrowers now spend £25.40 on their mortgage out of every £100 of take-home pay — a fall of almost 18 per cent over the last year.

The TSB says the cost of buying a home is now at its most affordable level in 18 years, but predicts that the real cost of home-owning will rise again after Christmas as a result of interest rate increases and rising house prices.

It says "affordability" is likely to improve slightly to £25.20 per £100 of take-home pay by the end of this year, before rising to £29.10 by the end of 1997. — Ian Whyte

Newspaper bid referred

THE proposed £305 million takeover of the regional newspaper group Westminster Press is to be investigated by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, it was announced yesterday.

Newscast, formed last year through a management buyout of Reed Regional Newspapers from Reed Elsevier, wants to buy Westminster from Pearson group. Westminster's titles include the Northern Echo in Darlington, the Telegraph & Argus in Bradford, the Oxford Mail, Brighton Evening Argus and Yorkshire Evening Press.

Takeovers involving newspaper groups of a certain size are automatically referred to the MMC, unless there are special circumstances. The Corporate and Consumer Affairs Minister, John Taylor, said he was referring the proposed Westminster deal to the commission and had asked for a report of its findings by October 31. — PA

Munich Re makes US bid

MUNICH RE, the world's largest reinsurer, said it would offer \$65 a share to take over American Re Corp, to increase its presence in the United States. The offer, made in accord with Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co, which owns 64 per cent of American Re, values the US reinsurer at \$3.3 billion.

Munich Re will finance the acquisition primarily from its own resources. It said American Re had annual premium income of \$2.6 billion, representing a 10 per cent share of the US market. It is the world's third largest reinsurer in property and casualty, the German company said. — Bloomberg

Stable oil-price thanks to Saddam

Chris Barrie continues our series on London's less-known markets — IPE

WHEN Iraqi tanks rolled across the border with Kuwait, Saddam Hussein unwittingly guaranteed the future of one of Britain's least-known financial markets.

The International Petroleum Exchange was created 15 years ago with just that type of global crisis in mind. But the unexpected nature of

the Iraqi invasion and duration of the occupation of Kuwait gave the exchange a rare and unbroken stint in the limelight. Many oil groups and traders used its contracts to hedge against the rise and subsequent fall in oil prices.

By trading in futures contracts oil refiners, producers and marketers can avoid

being caught by an unexpected rise or fall in oil prices. Traders and investors also use the market to make money by exploiting these price movements.

Always busy, the exchange is particularly chaotic at times of economic or political crisis. Traders talk of how Iraq's invasion led to 50,000 contracts for Brent crude being traded as refiners, producers and marketers rushed to take positions as a way of insuring themselves against

the political uncertainty. Simple surges in trading took place when Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president, faced attempts to oust him from the Kremlin.

Although the exchange is located in London, prices quoted on the IPE's trading floor are relayed electronically around the world, so the exchange influences, and is influenced by, global oil-price movements.

Its principal products, contracts for future deliveries of Brent crude, are watched closely as an industry benchmark. At first contracts were traded on the basis that they would be settled on the due date with physical delivery of the oil. Now the exchange also offers traders and oil groups the means of settling the contracts with cash instead, enhancing the liquidity of the market.

The exchange is trading about 60,000 contracts a day at present, equivalent to 60 million barrels of oil. World oil production is not much higher, at about 70 million barrels a day. Europe's only energy futures and options exchange, the IPE is used by, among others, BP and Shell and banks such as Lloyds, the Barclays subsidiary BZW, Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley.

Trading is by "open outcry", where registered floor traders accept bids and offers on the trading floor. Exchange officials record the deals on video tape. As in most exchanges the traders, wearing different-coloured jackets according to their speciality, tend to be young and able to work long hours.

The exchange is planning to launch trading in gas contracts shortly. It will also need to find a replacement basis for setting prices because production and trading in Brent blend is falling.

But given the instability of many oil-producing regions, the exchange should be in business years after Saddam has quit the scene.

Underside

Dan Atkinson

GOOD old Railtrack is laying the blame for level-crossing accidents firmly where it belongs: on the victims. A cassette tape — a joint venture with the air and rail companies' own goon squad, the British Transport Police — "deliberately pushes good taste to the limit" (Railtrack's own words).

It reconstructs a train-car smash-up. Get hit by an express, Railtrack gloats, and "police could be looking for your remains... over three-quarters of a mile". Most accidents, Railtrack coyly admits, occur on unattended crossings. Yes, indeed. Since 1986, unions estimate, BR/Railtrack has cut the number of crossing keepers by about half, from 650-ish to 350.

spotted lurking in Vancouver — were likely to pop up in future opera. Trasker was inscrutable: "could be".

TIMES are tough for the chaps at De Beers, what with Brother Ivan cheating on his diamond quotas and RTZ failing to rein in the wild colonial boys at its Argyle mining affiliate in Australia. But founder Cecil John Rhodes provided for everything.

In his foresight, he included in his Rhodes Fruit Farms a vineyard, which remains to this day part of the De Beers-Anglo-Minurco empire. As a result, harassed De Beers executives can reach for a glass of Boschendal 1992 (a most agreeable red) or chill out with the 1994 Chardonnay.

The Underside investigated the former at Charterhouse Street on Tuesday and can report favourably.

ORION publishing staff threw a dinner in Soho last night to mark a visit by star author Peter Tasker, whose day job is as Kleinwort Benson International's strategist in Tokyo. True-Brit Tasker headed east in 1977, since which time he has picked up numerous awards for financial analysis. But it is his second novel, just published (Buddha Kiss, Orion £9.99) that best displays his forecasting skills.

Buddha features a seriously deranged cult leader and a maniacal rogue trader. Not bad, given that Tasker was putting pen to paper 18 months ago, before either the Aum cult's alleged involvement in the Tokyo underground gas attack or the unveiling of Sumitomo's rock'n'roll copper dealer Yasuo Hamanaka. Tasker's fictional dealer, Terumasa Yazawa, makes downbeat Hamanaka look positively soporific. "Japan is obviously a pretty conformist society so the people who are non-conformist are non-conformist in style", the author told the Underside. Asked if Yazawa — last

asked for a true? A High Court winding-up order No 0028-47 has been made against a company called Project Cancellation. Yes, quite.

Tomorrow: London's gold market

Handwritten Arabic text: "مكتبة الجليل"

Racing

Owner hits out at Dettori for 'not trying'

Chris Hawkins

FRANKIE Dettori turned up half an hour late at Salisbury yesterday to find himself in the middle of a row over his riding of Cape Pigeon, on whom he finished third in Monday Swinburn's winning comeback race at Windsor on Wednesday.

Neither Eric Gadsden, the owner of Cape Pigeon, nor Gerald Cottrell, the trainer, is happy with Dettori's performance and he is adamant he is getting out of the game as a result.

They are upset that Dettori did not appear to make more effort to keep Cape Pigeon going when Swinburn and Tathath ranged alongside a furlong and a half out.

Cape Pigeon is a confirmed front runner who normally finds extra for pressure, but he failed to hang on for second when pipped on the line by Tathath, a forecast punter dealer.

The stewards held an inquiry into Dettori's riding but took no action after hearing the jockey's view that Cape Pigeon was tired and could not have found any more.

"Normally at Windsor Cape Pigeon hits the straight and goes," said Cottrell. "But in my opinion, having watched the film several times, Dettori didn't ride too hard and Cape Pigeon was jumping strongly afterwards as if he hadn't had a race."

Gadsden, a 52-year-old property developer, did not mince matters and commented: "Dettori was certainly not trying and I am certain the horse should have won. I hope this is not the pattern of comeback wins. I never bet on my own horses but feel so

strongly that I've finished with racing. I've had horses for 18 years and had more pleasure from Cape Pigeon, who has won 11 times, than anything you can do with your clothes on."

Dettori said yesterday: "The stewards held an inquiry and as far as I'm concerned that's the end of the matter. If I did anything wrong it was probably going too fast in the first half of the race."

One is hesitant to dispute the view of a jockey as only he knows the sort of feel a horse is giving him, but it must be said that from the stands in this case it did look as if Dettori accepted matters rather easily.

Only Gadsden may feel that the view of a jockey is not the view of the race, but the stewards these days normally jump on jockeys failing to ride out for a place and perhaps Dettori was left lightly.

His late arrival yesterday was due to flat batteries in Walter Swinburn's plane which had not been used for six months. Both men eventually arrived at the track but Dettori's mount on Rasmussen in the opener was taken by Ray Cochrane.

The race was won by Orontes on whom the apprentice Dane O'Neill got up in the final strides. O'Neill needs only two winners now before losing his allowance. He is undoubtedly a talented, stylish young rider and one hopes his opportunities do not dry up once he loses his claim.

After returning from two months off with a broken elbow last Friday, Dettori rode his first winner when partnering Altamura in the Upavon Fillies Stakes.

Altamura, trained by John



Sensational... Mick Kinane coasts home on Sensation at Newmarket last month and will be hoping for more of the same from the unbeaten French filly in today's prestigious Prix Jacques Le Marois at Deauville.

Godsen, ran lazily after hitting the front and Tamara, pushing out with hands and heels, had to keep her up to her work after she led two furlongs out.

Godsen had bad news of last year's Derby third Presenting who has been retired after damaging a tendon on the gallops at the weekend.

But Godsen was much more

encouraging about his other good four-year-old Tamara, who has been of the course with a foot problem since finishing fourth in last season's Breeders' Cup.

Tamura, second to Lamtara in last year's Derby, is back in work and the plan is to run him in the Arc with a preparatory race beforehand, good ground permitting.

The colt's former partner

Michael Kinane, who stepped in while the dual champion jockey was injured, rides unbeaten filly Sensation for Criquette Head.

Along with Sensation, France's main hopes are Spinning World (Cash Amussen) and Shammi, the mount of top Japanese rider Masayoshi Ebina.

Charnwood Forest and Godolphi's group One Prix Jacques Le Marois at Deauville today.

Godolphi's Charnwood Forest, winner of the Queen Anne Stakes at Royal Ascot and second to First Island in the Sussex Stakes at Goodwood, will be ridden by Frankie Dettori for the first time.

While the dual champion

jockey was injured, rides unbeaten filly Sensation for Criquette Head.

Along with Sensation, France's main hopes are Spinning World (Cash Amussen) and Shammi, the mount of top Japanese rider Masayoshi Ebina.

Salisbury with guide to the latest form

- 2.15 Cranstonk 2.45 Prime Puff 2.45 Obedient Knight (imp) 4.15 Wizard King 2.15 Starlet Crescent 4.45 Poldar 2.15 Intimation

Colony owned to Mrs. V. Doreen Milder. Drives Low to middle numbers preferred over 80. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse names with their respective odds and form.

TOP FIVE TIPS: 1. 100-000 BISHOPTON ROAD (10) (2) 2. 100-000 BISHOPTON ROAD (10) (2) 3. 100-000 BISHOPTON ROAD (10) (2) 4. 100-000 BISHOPTON ROAD (10) (2) 5. 100-000 BISHOPTON ROAD (10) (2)

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Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse names with their respective odds and form.

Beverley runners and riders

- 2.00 Delta Dove 3.30 Euro Scenic 2.00 Sleepless (nb) 4.00 True Perspective 3.00 Darling Clover 4.30 Polly Moon

Colony owned to Mrs. V. Doreen Milder. Drives High best over 80 & 75. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing.

Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse names with their respective odds and form.

TOP FIVE TIPS: 1. 100-000 BISHOPTON ROAD (10) (2) 2. 100-000 BISHOPTON ROAD (10) (2) 3. 100-000 BISHOPTON ROAD (10) (2) 4. 100-000 BISHOPTON ROAD (10) (2) 5. 100-000 BISHOPTON ROAD (10) (2)

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Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse names with their respective odds and form.

Yarmouth evening programme

- 6.55 Splashing Merman 7.05 Perfect Miles 6.55 Conquerors Dancer 8.05 Chevaliers Dancer 6.55 Hebrides 8.05 Chevaliers Dancer

Colony owned to Mrs. V. Doreen Milder. Drives High best over 80 & 75. Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing.

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Table with 2 columns: Race number and horse names with their respective odds and form.

The Paralympics

Britain ready to dig into the gold mine

Richard Redden in Atlanta sets the uncertain scene for the parallel games

THEY are the second-biggest event in the sporting world and the one that is being represented in the opening ceremony at the Olympic stadium hosted by the disabled Superman actor Christopher Reeve.

For many, the Paralympics represent the true Olympic ideal, the striving for a personal best within the physical limits of the body.

Perhaps, too, the Paralympics can bear too close a resemblance to the Olympic Games. So far the contestants arriving in Atlanta have suffered the same problems that blighted the other event.

Hundreds of Paralympians had to wait for hours at the airport on Monday night after the computer system providing credentials crashed. Then on Tuesday cyclists trying to reach Stone Mountain found their bikes and commander equipment vans when the buses that were supposed to pick them up failed to show.

Once the games get under way, there will be 230 nations represented by 4,000 athletes with physical disabilities. Some 1,000 coaches and team staff, 1,500 officials and 12,000 volunteers will participate.

The question now is can Atlanta, which packed so much emotion into the Olympics, put its life and soul into these games?

What is certain is that the British team, 243 strong, will do far better than their Olympic counterparts. Britain is one of the most successful nations in Paralympic sport and the team are attracting a growing number of sponsors

including British Telecom and Royal Mail. In 1992 they notched up 128 medals — 40 gold, 47 silver and 41 bronze — coming third after the United States and Germany.

What Paralympics stands for is Parallel Olympics: parallel to the Olympic Games, and not to be confused with paraplegia. Paraplegia, paralysis in both legs, is one of 24 medical definitions of disability on which the rules of the games are based.

The Paralympics started in 1960 in Rome and the aim was to follow on from the Olympic Games at the same host cities. But somehow along the road the original ideal was lost and the venues became separated from those of the Olympics.

It was the Koreans who restored that spirit to the event, hosting 3,500 competitors in Seoul in 1988. Four years later in Barcelona more than 1.3 million people came.

With 17 sports represented in Atlanta plus two demonstration sports, about 600 athletes will be up for grabs, against some 330 in the Olympics. That is because disability sport has a highly developed "handicapping" system to ensure that like competes against like, making for a far higher number of medals to be won for given events.

To take swimming as an example, there are 10 different disability grades and three grades for blind or visually impaired swimmers. On top of that there are five added grades for breaststroke and two for the medley.

The closing ceremony in Britain between the Olympic and Paralympic athletes has been especially heartening. For the past two years Paralympians have been invited to join the pre-Olympic training camps in Florida, and this year the Paralympic swimming trials were combined with the Paralympic trials.

Newton Abbot (N.H.) card tonight

- 6.50 Newton Abbot 7.30 Father Power 6.50 Southern Hoop 7.30 Teemooch Teemooch 6.50 Instant Memory 8.20 Redbridge

Results

Table with multiple columns showing race results, including horse names, jockeys, and odds.

Advertisement for RACELINE featuring Salisbury and Beverley results, including a table of race numbers and horse names.



A home to call his own... Barry Fry takes in the Posh atmosphere at London Road where he is in charge of the Second Division club's destiny both on and off the field

PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JEWINS

Francis is committed to the madhouse again

Robert Pryce reports on the return to Birmingham City of the lost Superboy

TWICE burned, still shy, Trevor Francis has taken on a manager's job again. The 37-year-old managing director is reported to be impressed nevertheless by her new manager, or at least by the fact that his sons wear Dolce & Gabbana. Indeed the Francis family looks a picture. St Andrews will soon follow suit, and now that a sufficient number of Blues strikers have returned to full fitness — Furlong, Newell, Paul Barnes and Kevin Francis have all been injured in the pre-season — the spine should be fine too, provided the goalkeeper Ian

calls them. He has also sold Jim Bone, has quit as manager of St Mirren in protest at the sacking of his assistant Kenny McDowall for financial reasons. "My principles will not allow me to stay on," he said. Celtic have announced a 54 per cent increase in turnover to £16 million for the year ended June 30, helped by a rise in season-tickets from 18,500 to 29,500.



Francis... twice-burned

"I wouldn't say we're too narrow, no," Francis said. "I've been in the game for 13 years and the opening day of the following season brought a setback that contradicted his judgment, curbed his confidence and did most to hasten his departure from Highbury." Francis has just spent £3.6 million of Wednesday's money on three new defenders to play alongside the £2.7 million Dan Walker, but against Tottenham's ill-fated

"Famous Five" this expensively reinforced back four fell apart like a cheap T-shirt. Spurs won 4-3. Walker's shortcomings had become increasingly evident with age; Peter Abbott had to be shifted to right-back when it became apparent that at least one of the central defenders had to be more commanding in the air; Ian Nolan, bought to play left-back, looked more comfortable on the right; and Dan Petrescu, bought to play right-back, showed no understanding of the demands of a stand-off defender. Together they played six games, in which Wednesday conceded 14 goals and dropped 16 points. Birmingham supporters should already know that the habit of certifying Birmingham supporters for extra for tickets to away games (abandoned), and the decision to close down the club's schools of excellence (reversed). Sullivan has also acquired the services of a former assistant to Alan Shearer these fans would still find something to moan about," he told reporters last month. "There has been a lot of bad publicity for the club," Francis observed, "with too much public bickering in the newspaper columns." Welcome back to the madhouse, Trevor.

Has-been who never was talks up Posh

Paul Kelso finds the owner-manager of Peterborough United champing at the bit

WHILE most Premiership managers were plotting transfer coups and finalising team selection for the season's opening day, Barry Fry, the new owner-manager of Second Division Peterborough United, has been pressing problems. It had been raining for four hours and the gutters on the new Family Stand could not cope. "It bucketed down all afternoon and the gutters couldn't take it, you could swim in the top half of the gutter having come 19th last year; I want promotion in the first year. Being realistic, I've got a three-year plan to get us out."

Watching Fry on the training ground it is clear his dual responsibilities have not detracted from his enthusiasm. Wearing only shorts and boots he cajoles players on two pitches at once, looking every inch the "51, fat and happy fella" he professes to be. Yet his transformation from training-ground drill sergeant to boardroom boss is effortless. Having promised the players a weekend away so they can all "get a bird, get pished, and play 18 holes of golf", a now double-breasted Fry gives a grand tour of the club's London Road ground. As we pass the club secretary's office he looks in and signs a couple of players' contracts. He has always

liked collecting players; for Peterborough he has already signed nine, among them Martin O'Connor from Walsall, a club-record buy at £200,000 and "the best player in the Second Division last season," he says. His relish for the game is born of a desire to atone for past failures. When he was an apprentice at Manchester United in the Sixties Matt Busby told him he would be the next Jimmy Greaves. To a degree Busby was right; Fry skipped the scoring feats and went straight for the drinking. "I missed my future up against the wall," he says. "I'm the best player who never was. I started at the top, failed, and it's been downhill ever since." But Fry does not dwell on the past. Even his sacking from Birmingham — "the biggest surprise I've ever had in football" — has not left him bitter. "I've never looked forward to a season as much as this one. I've got to do the business on the field, but I also want to see if this silly football manager can run a club."

Rangers digest war dispatch as rivals Celtic chew on mint

RANGERS will have to parade their talents in Vladikavkaz after all next Wednesday, despite the threat of conflict from neighbouring Chechnya. There had been talk of moving the match from southern Russia to Moscow but the European governing body Uefa said yesterday: "The match will go ahead as planned. We are satisfied that the security arrangements are such that the venue did not need to be switched, given all the information we had."

Rangers go into the second leg of the Champions' League qualifying round tie with a 3-1 lead against Alania. Jim Bone has quit as manager of St Mirren in protest at the sacking of his assistant Kenny McDowall for financial reasons. "My principles will not allow me to stay on," he said. Celtic have announced a 54 per cent increase in turnover to £16 million for the year ended June 30, helped by a rise in season-tickets from 18,500 to 29,500.

Villa snap up £4m Curcic from Bolton

ASTON VILLA last night spent a club-record £4 million on Bolton Wanderers' highly rated Yugoslav international Sasa Curcic. The 23-year-old Serbian midfielder is unlikely to make his debut for at least two weeks while work permit details are sorted out. The deal reunites Curcic with his former Partizan Belgrade teammate Savo Milosevic, whom Villa signed last summer for £3.5 million. The pair are close friends and Curcic was a regular visitor to Villa Park last season after his £1.5 million move to Burnley in October. Brian Little, the Villa manager, twice approached Bolton over Curcic last season. "This is the one player I have been trying to sign above all others," he said last night. "It's a fantastic deal for the club. I've been in regular contact with [Bolton's manager] Colin Todd over the last three months and was resigned to playing a patient and waiting game."

Results

Table of sports results including Soccer (Scottish Coca-Cola Cup, Premiership), Athletics, Baseball, American League, National League, Bowls, and Hockey.

Soccer

Table of soccer results including Scottish Coca-Cola Cup, Premiership, and other leagues.

Cricket

Table of cricket results including County Championship, One-Day Internationals, and Test matches.

Fixtures

Table of upcoming sports fixtures for various leagues and events.

Soccer

Gullit plays name game

Martin Thorpe on what may become a Premiership blueprint for the future

ROUD GULLIT yesterday offered an insight into why Arsenal and other Premiership clubs are seeking high-profile drawing cards as managers. Chelsea's boss was speaking as Highbury applied the fine print to Arsene Wenger's contract. Although the Frenchman lacks Gullit's playing credentials, Europe is well aware of his managerial record. And reputation counts for everything when it comes to luring high-calibre players from the Continent.

It took Gullit just one phone call to Gianluca Pagnani, Roberto Di Matteo to ensure that each was on his way to Stamford Bridge. "I went to Colin Hutchinson, the managing director, and told him what I wanted," said Gullit. "I was personally, my best friend, a manager, tipped me off that Di Matteo was available; and Lebonof is someone I knew was a good player."

"I then phoned each one. Just one phone call each. They left the negotiations to Colin because wages and fees are not my concern." The signings have had a galvanising effect on the club and season-ticket sales have reached a club-record £3 million. Replica shirt sales and other merchandising have also gone through the roof. Hutchinson confirmed Gullit's influence. "We've got two marvellous plusses," he said, "Roud's reputation throughout Europe and the attraction of London to overseas players. If you had said two years ago that Gullit, Villi and Di Matteo were coming to Chelsea they would have put you in a loony bin and thrown away the key."

Gullit also revealed that money was a major factor in his decision to buy European. "I could have bought English players instead," he said. "But they cost money and I couldn't afford it." He went on to predict that Chelsea's lead in employing a separate person to negotiate transfers would increasingly be followed in England. "The old way is too much for one man to manage, train, do the paperwork, love it. But what the English must not do is just play the European way. You must make a mixture of it; keep your own identity and take some things that are good from abroad to improve your game. Your identity is famous worldwide. But I can feel something is changing at Chelsea and in the whole English game."

Match of the Day advertisement featuring the text 'the first and last word on football' and 'On sale every Thursday'.

Sport in brief

Equestrianism: The £120,000 Silk Cut Derby, which opens at Hickstead today, has drawn entries from 11 nations, writes John Kerr. Michael Whitaker, the four-time winner, rides Elton and down, and Nick Skelton is expected to partner Cathleen. A £5,000 bonus will be paid should a rider win both tomorrow's Derby trial and the Derby itself.

Olympic Games

Athens yesterday gave the fourth city to submit a bid to host the 2004 Games, one day before the IOC deadline.

Cricket

Cricket News and Scores advertisement with phone number 0891 22 88+ and Counties update table.

Handwritten signature or text at the bottom of the page.

'It was a collective nervous breakdown... Trafalgar Square was torched and other places were trashed'



Frank Keating

THE END. The line was graphically drawn under the Great Summer of Sport last night. Euro Cops 96, the latest programme in BBC1's challenging Inside Story series, not

only ransacked the generally held national perception and presumption that the summer's soccer championship passed off in a feel-good glow of sweetness and light, but also made one question the careful nature of those seeking to bring the altogether more unwieldy gigantic World Cup or Olympic Games to London early in the new century.

As last night's film showed, England's defeat on penalties by Germany in the semi-final at Wembley on June 26 triggered such a mayhem of misbegotten malevolence around the country that any boasts about English soccer being

free of hooliganism flew out of the windows as violently fast as the bricks that had just smashed them. Yet until last night the aftermath of the Germany match had scarcely been debated. Were even wise men so caught up in the drama of the penalty shoot-out that night that they could not be bothered to examine the vicious sequel on the streets?

Did, perhaps, the tabloids and the over-excitable in broadcasting semi-consciously choose to ignore the riots round England on the night of June 26 in palpable guilt at the xenophobic prejudice against Kraut and Fritz

and Hum into which they had tapped through all the days before the match? Or was it simply an accident of timing and the crush of new deadlines? By Friday morning, 36 hours after the riots, the rioters had been rounded up and the injured were being cared for — and there was still much merrier newsworthy mileage to be had from Gareth Southgate's mother's opinion on his miss.

You can sympathise with the police at being upset this morning with the film's outcome, but it is the way of this world. When full cooperation was promised to the BBC two years ago the Association of Chief Police Officers had in mind a fascinating little film illustrating the amount of conscientious skill and painstaking planning that had gone into ensuring the success and placidity of Euro 96. But most of such footage — crisply informed and uniformed officers with clipboards poised — hit the cutting-room floor as

sermily as the flames burned out cars in Trafalgar Square on the night of June 26. Who could expect the award-winning documentary filmmaker Ian Stuart and his assistant producer David Boardman to do otherwise? Mind you, there is another film to be made by someone, some time, on the Football Association's crazily haphazard ticket distribution for the championship. Segregation of fans was a cornerstone of the police operation, but the FA's policy seemed at times akin to tossing down confetti-like handfuls of tickets from the top of Nelson's Column at nine o'clock every morning of the tournament. It was superb policing and sheer good luck which kept the stadiums free of trouble; as well as the fact that the foreign hoolies came over simply to observe and not to play.

Cricket

Tour match: Leicestershire v Pakistanis

Spin sends tourists tumbling

Neville Foulger at Grace Road

PAKISTAN were saved from acute embarrassment by a ninth-wicket partnership of 79 between Mushtaq Ahmed and Ata-ur-Rehman in a curiously low-key affair here yesterday.

On a pitch taking appreciable turns, the tourists slipped to 142 for eight in 67 overs before lunch after winning the toss. But Mushtaq helped bring a semblance of respectability, finishing as top scorer with 38 in a total of 221.

By the close Leicestershire were 28 for one, the opener Iain Stutcliffe being bowled by the final ball of the day from Mohammad Akram.

The good news for Pakistan was that Aamir Sobail came through his first competitive innings since the hand injury that kept him out of the second Test at Headingley. He produced some typically flamboyant shots in his 58-ball innings before being bowled for 30, attempting an extravagant sweep against the left-arm spin of Matthew Brinson.

Brinson had a good day, taking four wickets in 21 overs, the off-spinner Adrian Pierson claimed three for 44 in 20 overs. But Pakistan, who included seven of their side from the Headingley Test, contributed to their own downfall with some undisciplined and reckless stroke-play.

Only Saim Malik and Mushtaq could claim to have

been undone by quality deliveries. Salim, having batted 139 minutes for 82, was caught off his glove at slip as he tried to cut a ball which turned and lifted. Mushtaq was unable to avoid a delivery from Gordon Parsons which jumped at him and he was given out, caught behind despite pointedly rubbing his left elbow as he walked to the dressing room.

The rest of Pakistan's top order was guilty of a loss of concentration until Mushtaq and Rehman showed how to play on a spinners' pitch. It will be interesting to see how Mushtaq the leg-spinner uses the conditions.

| PAKISTAN XI | |
|---|------------|
| First Innings | |
| Shahid Kabir b Brinson | 22 |
| Shahid Afridi c Nelson b Brinson | 23 |
| Saeed Anwar b Nelson b Brinson | 1 |
| Aamir Sobail b Brinson | 30 |
| Salim Malik b Parsons b Pierson | 14 |
| Ajmal Muztaba c Smith b Pierson | 14 |
| Muhammad Khan c & b Pierson | 2 |
| Mushtaq Ahmed c Nelson b Parsons | 38 |
| Ata-ur-Rehman c Smith b Parsons | 30 |
| Mohammad Akram not out | 0 |
| Extras (b6, w13, nb4) | 23 |
| Total (91 overs) | 221 |
| Leicestershire 5, 53, 62, 99, 129, 151, 162, 202, 221 | |
| Leicestershire: Mills 19-3-56-1; Parsons 22-8-2-2; Wells 5-2-14-2; Pierson 22-8-44-3; Brinson 21-8-38-4; Clarke 4-1-10-0. | |

| LEICESTERSHIRE XI | |
|---|-----------|
| Second Innings | |
| D L Maddy not out | 18 |
| I J Stutcliffe b Mohammad Akram | 5 |
| Extras (b1, w4) | 10 |
| Total (91 overs) | 28 |
| To: Saim Malik, A Habib, V P Clarke, V J Wells, P A Nelson, D J Mills, S D J Parsons, A R K Pierson, M T Brinson, Muztaba, Ata-ur-Rehman 2-0-0-2; Mohammad Akram 5-1-16-1; Mushtaq Ahmed 3-1-0-0; Umpires: M J Kitchen and G Sharp. | |

Leadership up for grabs as top three counties take time out

KENT and Derbyshire can put unanswerable pressure on the three counties above them in the championship over the next few days. The leaders Surrey and third-placed Essex are coincidentally given time out on rota, and Leicestershire, who lie between them in the table, entertain the Pakistan tourists.

Since Kent and Derbyshire each have 185 points and Surrey are only seven better off, the odds favour a new look at the top come Monday evening. If not sooner, even Yorkshire, in sixth place on 177 points, could take over the leadership should Kent and Derbyshire slip up.

Mark Rathman's strained rib muscle again keeps him

Ice Hockey

Save the British goaltender

Vic Batscheider

WHEN Sir John Hall's Newcastle Cobras finally revealed their line-up for the new season yesterday, they completed a full set of Superleague clubs employing overseas goaltenders.

McKay left Sheffield Steelers after a Canadian, Wayne Cowley, was preferred to him for the British Championship final at Wembley last March, even though Cowley had broken a finger during the pre-game warm-up.



England expects... the world No. 1 Laura Davies, winner of two majors already this year, takes an iron to the Woburn woods in practice FRANK BARON

Woburn wired for Webb

David Davies on the young phenomenon who defends her Weetabix Women's British Open title today

JUST 12 months ago the slightly built and shy Kariie Webb stood, arms aloft, on the 18th green at Woburn. She had just won, by the massive margin of six shots, the Weetabix Women's British Open and within seconds of holing the winning birdie putt she was wet through, half-drowned in champagne sprayed over her by some fellow Australian competitors.

It was a big start to something that was to become much bigger. Webb, who had never won as a professional and was still only 30, took away \$60,000 for that victory but, more importantly, gathered the confidence that has helped her to perhaps the most impressive start to a golfing career ever made, by man or woman.

Since that dramatic, drenching moment this world-wide Webb — she comes from Queensland in the United States and Europe — has produced some simply astonishing results. Having got her US Tour card, about which more later, she finished second in her first event there. The Aussie good-overs were still pouring in

when she went and won her second event. This was quite unprecedented, and sporting Australia was almost incoherent. Even in that determinedly chauvinistic country such success could hardly be ignored and Webb, to her great delight, became the first woman to go on the cover of Golf Digest Australia since Jan Stephenson did so in the late Seventies.

Nor was that all. In her next three US tournaments she finished seventh, fourth and sixth and took a clear lead in the US Money List.

No one, except maybe she herself, expected such a situation to last. Rookies are expected to behave themselves, to show respect for their more experienced colleagues; in short, in the in-purse, to pay their dues. Webb treated that concept with traditional Australian contempt: she went out and also won the ninth event in which she played and since then she has had a sixth and two seconds.

It is a stunning change of lifestyle, and one which might never have happened. Towards the end of last year, although she had won the British Open, she ran into the intransigent authorities who run American women's golf and was required to go through the two qualifying schools before getting her card. Three weeks before the final school, she fell down some stairs in London and broke her wrist.

Fortunately it was a "greenstick" fracture — "I have young bones" — and after a fortnight's lay-off she was hitting balls again. She was not sure, though, when she went to the American Tour school, whether the injury would withstand the intensive practice and the four most nerve-racking rounds most golfers ever endure. She came second.

Now she is back to defend the title that started it all. "I've been looking forward to it all this year," she said yesterday. "Defending is very special." She played the course yesterday and the memories, particularly of the back nine in the final round last year, flooded back.



Webb... top of money list

Lendl hits the fairways at odds of 1,000-1

Michael Britton in Maribor, Slovenia

A PROFESSIONAL who has won more majors than Nick Faldo, and more prize-money than any golfer in history, is offered at 1,000-1 by British bookmakers to win on his European Tour debut in the Chemapol Trophy Czech Open starting here today.

Ivan Lendl, the former tennis world No. 1, winner of eight Grand Slam events and more than \$20million (£13 million), is the illustrious rookie aiming to beat Europe's elite at a sport he has been playing seriously for only two years. He played tennis right-handed until his retirement in 1994 but is a left-handed golfer.

Mizuno, a tennis equipment contract that also stipulated that he use the company's clubs. Lendl then had a handicap of seven and was clearly in breach of the rules on amateur status. "I had taken money so far, £3,000. Lendl was known as 'Old Stoneface' on the tennis courts because of his lack of visible emotion, but yesterday he hid his stage fright with dry humour. "I have no pretensions about becoming a Tour player,"

Rugby Union

Roumat leads against Wales

Olivier Roumat will become the first Frenchman to captain the Barbarians against a full international team when they play Wales at Cardiff Arms Park on Saturday week.

The lock forward from Dax, capped 62 times by France, will lead a quality side containing 12 senior internationals from nine countries.

Roumat is joined by three compatriots in the centres Stephane Glas and Richard Dourthe and the uncapped Biarritz full-back David Arrieta.

Aran Pene, 15 times an All Black, is given the chance to pack down opposite his cousin Hemi Taylor, the Wales flanker born in New Zealand.

Two uncapped Fijians in Apurama Bose and Marika Gasmua will add to the cosmopolitan atmosphere alongside players from Scotland, Ireland and Canada.

Jonah Lomu hopes to be fit for the first Test against South Africa in Durban on Saturday. The All Black wing scored a try on his return from a left knee cartilage injury in the 31-23 midweek win against Eastern Province.

The former New Zealand captain Mike Brewer, who now plays for the Dublin-based Blackrock College club, will be part of Ireland's international coaching staff during the coming season.

Rugby League

Wigan chief sent for trial

Paul Fitzpatrick

THE Wigan chairman Jack Robinson has been committed for trial at Bolton Crown Court on charges of perverting the course of justice and inciting the making of false instruments.

Robinson, 54, who has been in charge at Central Park for five years, is alleged to have perverted the course of justice between February 20 and March 3 by instigating a fraudulent damages claim against the Wigan Observer newspaper.

He is also charged with inciting Alf Davies, the chief executive at Leeds, to make false instruments, namely letters to the Wigan club, on February 21 and March 5. Earlier charges of conspiracy, brought by the Crown Prosecution Service against Robinson and John Martin, a fellow Wigan director, have been dropped.

SportsGuardian

Arsenal reveal hand of Wenger

Martin Thorpe

THE Frenchman Arsene Wenger is the new manager of Arsenal. The choice became clear yesterday when the Highbury club confirmed they had signed two French players, one for £4 million.

Arsenal would not have paid out without instructions from a new manager, and the fact that the pair are French and little known outside their own country confirms Wenger's imminent arrival.

Both are midfielders, Rémi Garde from Wenger's old club Strasbourg, and the £4 million Patrick Vieira from Milan, who both signed ahead of today's deadline for eligibility for the first three rounds of the UEFA Cup.

Formal confirmation of Wenger's arrival at Arsenal is being delayed pending agreement over an early release from his contract with the Japanese club Grampus Eight which is due to run out in November.

Vieira, a 20-year-old defensive midfielder, is a rising star, on the fringe of the French national team and, when with Cannes, the youngest captain in French football. He was due to play in the French Olympic team, but picked up an injury.

Garde is 30 — bringing to seven the number of 30-plus players in the Arsenal squad — and an international with six caps. He was out of contract at Strasbourg and joined

as a free agent under the Bosman ruling.

Yesterday Bruce Rioch was said to be "very aggrieved and very upset" by the sports lawyer Mel Goldberg over his sacking. However, Goldberg denied suggestions that Rioch — who is expected to receive a £500,000 pay-off — was planning to sue the club.

The Scot was not given enough time to complete the job, said Goldberg, who added: "Wenger won't be able to get the team changed in a year and anyway may not be free until November. If that happens, a third of the season is gone, so I suspect the results won't be very good."

Goldberg threw some light on the back-stage tensions that existed when he said: "Obviously in the latter days Bruce didn't get on with the board and one individual in particular." This was a reference to the Arsenal vice-chairman David Dein.

Referring to the fact that Arsenal signed just one player, John Lukic on a free transfer, in 14 months, Goldberg said: "After the George Graham debacle a system was put in place whereby the manager chose the players and the list was given to the directors to complete the transfers."

"Assuming Bruce did his job, which I believe he did, the hall was placed in the court of the directors. Whether they did or didn't do anything is a matter of opinion, but clearly they haven't found anybody at all."

The *Guardian* theory, page 14

MITCHELL DIPS TO VICTORY BUT MILER MASTERKOVA STEALS ZURICH SHOW



Milestone... Svetlana Masterkova, who knocked more than three seconds off Paula Ivan's seven-year-old world mile record at Zurich last night

PHOTOGRAPH: GRAY MORTIMORE

Christie leaves with pride and a smile

Duncan Mackay in Zurich

LINCOLN CHRISTIE narrowly failed to repeat his triumphs of the past two years as he finished third in the 100 metres in his last appearance at the Weltklasse meeting here last night.

He walked off the Letzigrund stadium track for the last time, his head held high and his face awash with a grin after running one of the best races of his, his final year. The race was how he dreamt the Olympics might have been before he was disqualified in the final.

The Briton, winner here in

1994 and 1995, was challenging for the victory all the way to the line before Dennis Mitchell of the United States beat him on the dip in 10.04sec. Donovan Bailey, the Olympic champion and world record holder from Canada, finished second in 10.06 with Christie third in the same time.

Christie, attired in yellow, green and blue flashings like a packet of wine-gums, had qualified comfortably from his heat with practised ease: starting well, maintaining momentum over the final 30 metres and, after crossing the line second to Ato Boldon in 10.17, wheeling away with his "let's get on with it" look. Even his step seemed to have recovered its jauntyness.

A false start by Mitchell in the final, 90 minutes later, must have brought back uncomfortable memories for the Briton. Out of the blocks at the second attempt, Mitchell won because he still started better than Bailey or Christie.

Bailey, unclogging into the cumbersome, low-knee stride that calls on all the power of his hips and back, did not have the acceleration he showed in Atlanta and had to work hard to hold off Christie at the tape.

The capacity of the stadium is 22,000 but, with less than half that number seated, spectators who had paid up to £100 a ticket had needed to be at the gates when they opened — two hours before the start — to get a good position.

The packed terraces had a football-style atmosphere which helped inspire Britain's Jon Ridgeon, making his first appearance here since his high-hurdling days, to finish second to the American Eric Thomas in the 400m hurdles B race in 48.79 — only 0.06 worse than his four-year personal best.

An Achilles tendon injury at the start of the 1993 season had led Ridgeon to believe his career was over, until he made an unexpected recovery last autumn and was able to launch an Olympic comeback.

Months of hard work were nearly wasted in Atlanta

when he injured a calf two days before his first race. He recovered sufficiently to reach the semi-final but was disappointed with his performance. "Next to the Olympics this is the best place in the world to run well, I suppose," he said.

The crowd's joy at the 100m was nothing compared with the ecstasy that greeted Svetlana Masterkova's world record of 4min 12.56sec in the mile, taking more than three seconds off the Romanian Paula Ivan's seven-year-old mark.

After considerable pace-making from her compatriot Lyudmila Borisova, Russia's Olympic 800 and 1500m champion began lifting her knees higher, unleashing her springy legs to gobble up more of the track with each stride, covering the last lap of her first mile in under 60sec.

Once over the line Masterkova, who is based in Spain, turned and bowed to the terraces. It appeared she was hardly out of breath after setting the 20th world

record at this meeting. Colin Jackson, who has been eclipsed by Allen Johnson in the 110m hurdles this season, was beaten by a quartet of Americans, finishing sixth in 13.40. Jack Pierce, a man with a point to prove after failing to finish in the US Olympic trials, was the winner, ahead of the Olympic champion Johnson in 13.31.

Such was the strength of the hurdles that Tony Jarrett, the world silver medalist who fell in the Olympics, was reduced to the B race. The Briton's sour expression showed how displeased he was as he crossed the line comfortably first in 13.38.

Roger Black, the Olympic silver medalist and Ridgeon's best friend and training partner, seemed to be running on tired legs as he finished fourth in a 400m won by the American, Anthony Maybank, in 44.18. Consolation for Black was that he won his race within a race against the fifth-placed Mark Richardson, clocking 44.83 to 44.97.

BECKSENTRICS

For years people have believed the nation of...

Claude Arcas thought his luck had finally changed when, standing beneath the Eiffel tower, a wallet full of cash landed at his feet. From that day on he resolved to keep a daily vigil at the spot to reap the rewards that fate would throw him. Which, as it turned out, were very few. He has, at last, decided to retire after 12 years in which all he collected was one miserable cigarette lighter.

PLAYING BY THEIR OWN RULES

Guardian Crossword No 20,732

Set by Logodaedalus

They were all running as fast as they could, away from the base, as if trying to put as much of Berkshire between them and it as quickly as they could. Growing up near Greenham

G2 page 7

| | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 |

Across

- 1 Something on the track involves a long wait (5-3)
- 5 Ancient city where the best ended too soon (8)
- 9 In charge, admitting it to be endless (8)
- 10 Pen of Georges Simenon starting to wallow in compassion (6)
- 11 Put away excitement in the lean-to (8)
- 12 Whitener; one pound brought back by corporal maybe (6)
- 14,23 We and they bombed houses unfortunately for this fearsome woman (2,3,4,2,6)
- 18 Make a stew, Diane, but be patient (4,3,3)
- 22 Payment a socialist returned for a baby's bottle (6)
- 23 see 14

Down

- 1 Although a learner, must take part in card game (6)
- 2 Talented, yes, but what a fidget! (6)
- 3 I'm not so young, I realize, when in New York (6)
- 4 Where sunbathers won't be: in comparative obscurity (2,3,5)
- 6 Taxmen with large apes stretching fringe benefit for descendants (6)
- 7 Excessive amount makes half-back depraved (8)

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